

VOLK, Leonard - Face and Hands

DRAWING 23

71.2009.085.03123

Sculptors - V  
(Crests)



# Statues of Abraham Lincoln

Leonard Wells Volk  
Lincoln's face and hands

Excerpts from newspapers and other  
sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

# 10. Salinity and moisture

How does salinity  
affect moisture?

Salinity affects the  
water potential of  
soils, which in turn  
affects the availability  
of water to plants.

Leonard Volk, long time the only sculptor in Chicago. Was born at Wellstown, New York, November 7, 1828. From a notice printed at the time of his death, August, 1895, we learn that: - He was given little schooling and at the age of sixteen learned the trade of marble-cutting with his father. As he grew older he determined to become a Sculptor. He therefore moved to St. Louis and opened a modest little studio. It was a raw western town where statuary was not so much appreciated as cattle herds, and corn, and he had many obstacles to overcome. Among his first production was a bust in marble of Henry Clay, a copy from Hart's bust. Not long after this he was visited by Stephen A. Douglas, who was so pleased with the young Sculptor's work that he offered to defray his expenses for a trip to Rome to study art. Accordingly, Mr. Volk, leaving his wife and child in Massachusetts home of his parents, got out and devoted himself assiduously to the study of his art for a year and a half. In June 1857, he came to Chicago and opened a studio in Clark Street, opposite the Sherman House, and almost immediately he became identified with every art movement of the city. He was one of the prime movers in the first exhibition of fine arts held in that city in 1859. Later he assisted in founding the Academy of Design in Chicago, of which early institution he was for eight years the president. Mr. Volk made two other visits to Europe to study, and in 1872 he ordered at Geneva, the first shipment of Carrara Marble ever made direct to Chicago.

Among Mr. Volk's more important works are the Douglas Monument in Chicago; a bust of President Lincoln exhibited in Paris in 1867; statues Lincoln and Douglas in the Illinois State House, executed from life studies; the statuary on the Soldier's Monument for Erie County, New York, the first monument of the kind erected in this country; the Soldier's monument, with Statues at Rock Island; and in the last year





of his life another military memorial at Rochester, New York. His last work was a bronze figure of General Shields, presented by Illinois to the National Hall of Statuary at Washington.

Mr. Volk's contribution, aside from his efforts for art education in Chicago, was in the form of faithful portraiture. His "Faith" and one like the fore-seated figures around the Douglas Monuments, could hardly have been considered great sculpture even in their time. But among his portrait busts of Elihu B. Washburn, David Davis, Zachariah Chandler, J. H. McVickor, and many others of prominence are to be found a number of strong stypes conscientiously portrayed, if without poetic grace, they are at least sturdily authentic and therefore of great interest to succeeding generations. His bust of Lincoln is simple and dignified, while his statue in the Capitol at Springfield shows, though in a rather cramped fashion, the arrangement so successfully used by Saint Gaudens many years later. The figure of the President standing in from the "Chair of State".

It is probable that Mr. Volk was the only Sculptor privileged to model the features of Lincoln from life. His life mask and casts of the hands have been reproduced often, and were, of course, invaluable to later Sculptors.







Life Mask of Lincoln's Face and Hands, by Leonard W. Volk

10-12-2 532





HERBERT WELLS FAY, CUSTODIAN OF LINCOLN'S TOMB AT SPRINGFIELD, ILL. HE HOLDS A DEATH MASK OF THE MARTYRED PRESIDENT AND A CAST OF LINCOLN'S RIGHT HAND.





## See What Can Happen in 75 Years! Historic Lincoln Relic Bobs Up Again

Found: One plaster life mask of Abraham Lincoln, now hanging somewhere in Bloomington high school. Also two plaster hands.

Today is "Honest Abe's" birthday. In a search for some memento on the campus which has been connected with Lincoln, The Daily Student visited the archives in the Administration building.

"I seem to remember a plaster life mask of Lincoln which hung in Dr. Bryan's office in Maxwell

hall when he was president of the University," recalled George W. Brown, chief filing clerk. "I think there were plaster hands of Lincoln, too. I'll see if we have them here."

### Relics Not Filed.

The mask was gone. The hands were gone, and there was no card in all the filing cases to show what had happened to the missing relics.

"Dr. Bryan should remember—let's phone him," Brown said.

President-Emeritus William Lowe Bryan did remember. It seems that he had bought three of the masks at different times. One of these he presented to the G.A.R., he said. Many of the masks have been discarded as "dust catchers."

### Mask Made in 1860.

"The impression for the mask was taken in 1860 in Springfield, Illinois, before Lincoln's nomination for the presidency and before he grew his beard," Dr. Bryan said. "This is the truest record of this great man's appearance. His high forehead and the deep lines in his face are shown clearly. An impression of his hands was made at the same time."

Dr. Bryan said that the mask must be in one of the public schools. The relic was presented to them upon his retirement, he said.

Officials in the Bloomington high school recognized a description of the plaster face and hands. The mask, at least, was given to that school in 1938 and has hung in one of the halls ever since, they said.





12  
April 10, 1941

Miss Jessie Volk  
239 W. 13th St.  
New York, N. Y.

My dear Miss Volk:

We have had considerable correspondence with your family in years past with reference to the items which you mention but thus far we have never been able to have them priced for us. Several years ago we corresponded with one of the sons in Vermont and also with another brother in New York but we were never able to get any price list.

We are very familiar with all of the items which you mention and if you care to put a price upon them we will let you know whether or not we wish to acquire them.

Yours very truly,

LAW:BST

Director

April 10, 1941

Dear Mr. Tolson:  
Enclosed for you are  
two copies of a letter  
from the War Relocation  
Authority.

Very truly yours,  
John H. Tolson

We have had a number of inquiries from  
various sources regarding the  
status of the Japanese American  
relocation problem. It is our  
policy to have the Japanese American  
relocation problem handled in a  
coordinated manner with the War  
Relocation Authority. We are  
not now in a position to  
make any statement.

We are very interested in the  
problem of the Japanese American  
relocation and are doing our  
best to solve it. We will  
keep you advised of any  
developments.

Sincerely,  
John H. Tolson

Enclosure

100-111



May 19, 1941

Miss Jessie Volk  
239 W. Thirteenth St.  
New York, N.Y.

My dear Miss Volk:

I find that on April 10, 1941 I replied to a letter written by you with respect to the Volk items which you have in your possession. We have been holding this letter in suspense hoping to hear from you with some definite prices which you have placed upon your material so we might know whether we wish to acquire it. Will you kindly advise us whether or not they are still in your possession or whether we shall destroy all the correspondence we have had with your family with reference to these items which you have offered for sale.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director.





239 W. 13th St.,  
New York, N. Y.

May 26, 1941.

Louis A. Warren, Esq.,  
Lincoln National Life Foundation,  
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Mr. Warren:

Thank you for your letter of May 19, 1941, inquiring as to the Lincoln collection. I cannot see how past years correspondence can serve any purpose and think your suggestion of clearing your files afresh is a good one. The price complete is \$100,000. I have a few odd items probably of no interest to anyone except to myself due to family relationship to the Douglas family, such as Douglas' piano, and miscellaneous photographs, one being of Leonard W. Volk in his studio working on the Lincoln bust with the bust of Douglas in the background, an engraving of Stephen A. Douglas, head and shoulders, signed "S.A. Douglas", a fine oil portrait, 16x20, of Leonard W. Volk, etc. *and Leonard W. Volk's sculpting tools that he used on the Lincoln bust, mask, etc.*

Very few know of the collection, as it has never been shown together, and is not now physically together, although I am arranging to have that done, a portion still being at the old Volk homestead up north. I have been approached regarding disposition of individual items, but I think the diary should be with the paintings and bust, as the diary relates little things Lincoln said and did during the various sittings and meetings. My friends always mention your name in connection with Lincoln and the wonderful service you are performing. I was interested in reading just recently in a travelers hand-written diary of his travels in Japan and China and while visiting Doshisha (spelling ?) University the students were asked to vote their favorite character in all world history - - - Abraham Lincoln, this in spite of their own university's most remarkable founder.

Yours very truly,

*Jessie Volk*

1871

1871

1871

Volk

May 29, 1941

Miss Jessie Volk  
239 W. Thirteenth St.  
New York, N.Y.

My dear Madam:

This note is to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of May 26, 1941 in which you place a value of \$100,000 on your father's Lincoln items. Please do not consider us further as prospective buyers for the Volk material.

Yours very truly,

LAW:EB

Director



Jan 10, 1911

My dear Mr. [Name]  
I have just received  
your letter of the 7th  
and am glad to hear  
that you are well.

This was the first time  
I had heard from you  
in some time. I hope  
you are still in the  
same place. I am  
very glad to hear  
that you are well.

Yours very truly,  
[Name]

Enclosed

Yours

# CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

# WESTERN UNION

1201

# SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter  
NT = Overnight Telegram  
LC = Deferred Cable  
NLT = Cable Night Letter  
Ship Radiogram

A. N. WILLIAMS  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

NDW18 44 6 EXTRA NL=TD NELLEVILLE ILL 1

LOUIS A WARREN, LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE FOUNDATION

DEC 2 AM 6 3z

FTWAYNE IND=

REGARDING ORIGINAL LINCOLN BUST, PORTRAIT, ORIGINAL DOUGLAS  
LIFE MASK, ETC, HAVE JUST RECEIVED OFFER FOR PART OF (   
COLLECTION. WOULD YOU CARE TO CONSIDER MAKING OFFER FOR  
ALL OR PORTION OF ITEMS. THANKING YOU. KINDLY ADVISE COLLECT  
IF INTERESTED:

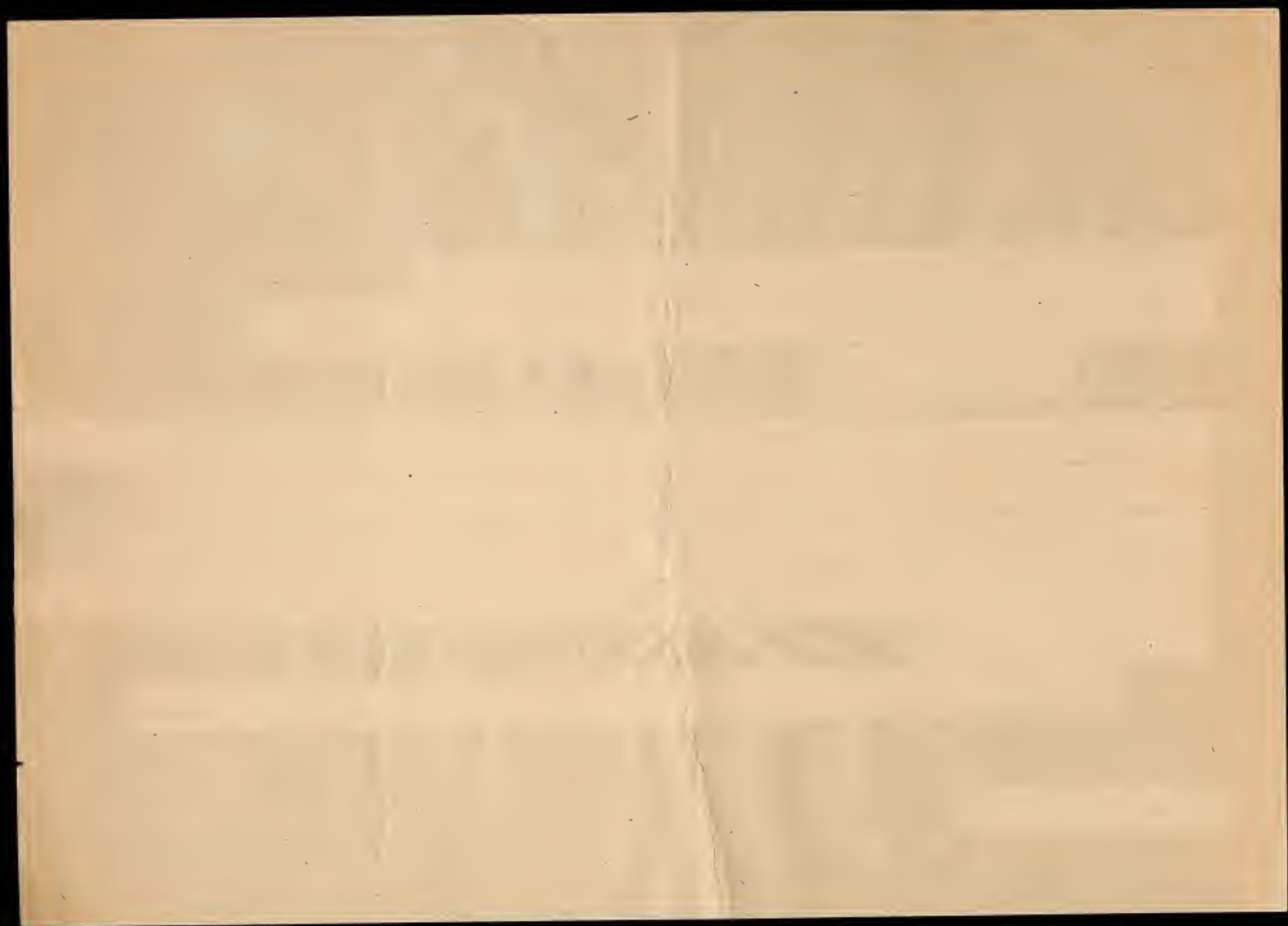
=JESSIE VOLK

215 SOUTH 16TH ST BELLEVILLE ILL.

VOLK 215 16.

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE





*Dr Warren*

THE LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

SPECIAL DELIVERY

COPY

November 5, 1941

Mr. Benjamin W. Morris  
101 Park Avenue  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Ben:

I have your interesting letter of the 1st concerning the Lincoln items to be sold Friday, the 7th, at the Parke-Barnet Galleries.

We are writing today offering \$250 for item #816, the bronze life mask of Abraham Lincoln, to which you call special attention. We already have an original Leonard Volk bronze bust of Lincoln.

It is stated in the catalog that there were originally thirty-three subscribers. Our records show that there were twenty subscribers originally, each of whom was to receive bronze casts of both the life mask and the hands, and you will note that the one for sale is #20. In later years there might have been more made. We have the original letter of Leonard Volk addressed to J. W. Weik, Greencastle, Indiana, dated Chicago, May 15, 1888, which states: "I do not wish at present to duplicate the life mask in cheap plaster but will make replicas of it in finest bronze metal as follows -- life mask of face \$60, hands each \$30." We have no way of knowing how many of these might have been made after the original twenty-one -- one for the Federal Government and one for each of the twenty original subscribers.

I note the hands which the Galleries has for sale are plaster casts. We ourselves sell a great many of these plaster casts to our Agents at \$1.25 for the right hand and \$1.00 for the left hand; and life masks in plaster at \$3.50; and plaster casts of the Leonard Volk bust at \$5.65 (in each case plus the carrier's charge). The Agents in turn present them to valued clients.

Our Lincoln Museum now contains the greatest collection of Lincolniana ever gathered together. I am enclosing you several pamphlets in which you may be interested. I think our Museum would be a very appropriate place for this bronze life mask of Lincoln. We have a plaster cast of the life mask of Lincoln, and I think the bronze cast in our possession, in the course of time, would be seen by thousands more people than it would be in the hands of a personal owner.

A. F. Hall  
Chairman of the Board



COPY

NO. 1000 DELIVERY

1910

TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY  
AT MONT WATSON, INDIANA  
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOLLOWING IS A TRUE AND CORRECT  
COPY OF THE RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD AT MONT WATSON, INDIANA, ON THE  
10TH DAY OF JANUARY, 1910.  
WITNESSED MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE, THIS 10TH DAY OF JANUARY, 1910.  
J. H. HARRIS, President  
J. H. HARRIS, Secretary

Witness my hand and seal of office this 10th day of January, 1910.



*Dr Warren*

THE LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

**COPY**

SPECIAL DELIVERY -- REGISTERED -- ~~Return Receipt~~ Requested

November 5, 1941

Parke-Bernet Galleries, Inc.  
30 E. 57th Street  
New York, N. Y.

Gentlemen:

We wish to enter a bid for the purchase of Item #816, the bronze life mask of Abraham Lincoln, which is to be sold in your Galleries Friday afternoon, November 7.

We wish to make a minimum bid of One Hundred Fifty Dollars and a maximum bid of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars.

If we secure this item, it will be placed in our Lincoln Museum, a much more appropriate place, I would say, than in the hands of some individual, as in the course of time it will be seen here by thousands of people.

I am enclosing you a booklet giving some idea of the scope of our Lincoln Museum and Library.

In addition to our bid, we will pay any local or federal taxes which may be assessed on the sale and also the packing and shipping charges to our address.

If our bid is successful you may draw a sight draft on us for the amount due. If this is not satisfactory method of payment, I am sure Mr. B. W. Morris, Sr., will be glad to take care of the matter for us on the spot.

Yours very truly,

Chairman of the Board

AWH:HM

Carbon copies --

Benjamin W. Morris, 101 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y.

Form 1463-41-38-ROOM  
L. W. Warren

100-100000

THE LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

PORTLAND, OREGON

COPY

SPECIAL DELIVERY - REGISTERED MAIL

[Faint, mostly illegible text body]

10

RECEIVED  
JAN 10 1900  
PORTLAND, OREGON





[NUMBER 816]

816. BRONZE LIFE MASK AND PLASTER CASTS OF THE HANDS OF  
ABRAHAM LINCOLN, 1860 *Leonard W. Volk, American: b. 1828*  
Bronze head with closed eyes, fully inscribed on back; cast no. 20. Two casts of hands  
in plaster. [Lot.] *Height of mask 10½ inches*

*Note:* The cast from the living face of Lincoln was made by Leonard W. Volk in  
Chicago in 1860, the first molds from the hands in the same year on the Sunday following  
the nomination for the Presidency. A copy of each was presented to the U. S. Government  
by the thirty-three subscribers, this apparently constituting the total number of casts made.

Collection of B. Scott Hurtt, Esq.

[See illustration]

Sale Price \$ 400.

817. PAIR SILK EMBROIDERY MAPS OF ENGLAND AND IRELAND *English, circa 1800*  
England and Wales; and a New Map of Ireland, showing the counties; on cream silk.  
Both framed. *Ovals: Height 17 inches; width 14 inches*

## Volk Brown 2c Mask

Many thanks for your kind reply to my inquiry about the Lincoln Life Mask.

I attended the Friday afternoon sale and at the auctioneer's suggestion canceled your instructions, thinking that perhaps I could start the bidding at a lower figure than that which you mentioned. The bidding started at \$100 and proceeded rapidly to 400, where it stopped without my having entered any bid whatever, as there was obviously no occasion for my doing so.

I learned this morning that the item was purchased by James Graham and Son, Antique Dealers, 814 Madison Avenue. Out of curiosity I stopped in to get further information, and found, according to their report, that they had been given a Carte blanche commission to purchase the item for a private museum collection, whose identity they felt unable to divulge. Obviously, there was practically no opportunity to get this at what might be considered a reasonable price. I am sorry to have stirred up any excitement which ended in a bust.

## LINCOLN MEMENTOS SOLD

### \$400 Paid for Bronze Life Mask and Plaster Cast of Hands

Property of the estate of Katherine Sanford Nielson of New London, Conn., was sold at auction yesterday at the Parke-Bernet Galleries, Inc., for \$12,355, making the total for the sale to date \$73,014. The auction will be completed this afternoon.

A bronze life mask and plaster casts of the hands of Abraham Lincoln made by Leonard W. Volk in 1860 went to James Graham & Sons for \$400. Jacques Helft gave \$600 for twenty-three eighteenth-century painted panels for a salon. Joe Kindig paid \$300 for an American late eighteenth-century Sheraton mahogany serpentine-front sideboard. A mahogany and leather upholstered wing armchair went to a New York private buyer for \$240.

NY Times 11-8-44

Names of Famous Trees A





2022 "N" St, N. W.  
Washington, D. C.  
June 14th 1948

~~3320 RESERVOIR ROAD~~

Dr Louis A. Warren, Director  
Lincoln National Life Foundation,  
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Dr. Warren:

Soon to be offered at private sale here is a life mask of Abraham Lincoln by Leonard W. Volk.

This mask, is the so-called "death mask", as it has no eyes and no hair on the front part of the scalp. It was given to a friend of Stephen Douglas' and Lincoln's about the time it was done in about July 1860, and has been in the family ever since.

If you are interested, and care to make an offer, please write to, Miss H. L. Pinckney, 808 17th St, N. W. Miss Pinckney, a historical researcher will have it for sale in about two weeks.

Very truly yours,

*Harry Mason Lee*

PS. The mask came from a prominent government official in the Lincoln administration.



June 22, 1948

Miss Mary Mason Lee  
2022 "N" Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Madam:

Would you kindly advise whether or not the Volk mask you have for sale is made of bronze or plaster. If it is bronze, could you determine whether or not it is solid bronze or whether it is merely a bronze shell over a plaster filling. Of course, the price would vary greatly with respect to the three different

Very truly yours,

Director

LAW:CM  
L.A. Warren



1941, 1942, 1943

... ..  
... ..  
... ..

2000

1. 1951年10月1日，中华人民共和国成立，标志着中国历史进入了一个新的纪元。

1900, 1901, 1902, 1903.

1. 1. 1. 1. 1.

[illegible]

Dear Dr. Hare:

2022 "N" St. N.W.  
Washington 6 D.C.  
June 25<sup>th</sup> 1948

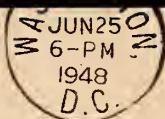
The Lincoln mask is in original plaster  
& is one of the first ones.

If interested, please write to: The H. P. H. Studio 11. 808 17<sup>th</sup> St. N.W. as I am not able to attend to matters.

Sincerely

Thanking you for your interest,  
Very truly yours.

Wm. M. Lee



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Dr Louis Q. Warren  
The Lincoln National Life Foundation  
Fort Wayne, Indiana



July 8, 1948

Mary M. Lee  
2022 N Street North West  
Washington, 6, D.C.

My dear Madam:

Inasmuch as we have one of the early plaster masks of Lincoln, I do not think we would care to acquire another. Thank you, nevertheless, for calling the item to our attention.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director

1941

1941

1941

1941

1941

1941

110 Highland Parkway  
Rochester 7, New York  
April 20th. 1949

Director of the Historical Research Foundation  
Lincoln National Life Insurance Company  
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

My dear Sir,

Because I cannot address you by name and have no source of information at hand I offer you my apologies.

I am the grand-daughter of Leonard Wells Volk, sculptor, distinguished principally for the making of the only life mask and casts of the hands of Abraham Lincoln. His son, my father, <sup>Douglas Volk,</sup> painter, gave to me some years ago a bronze replica set of the mask and hands from one of the earliest (therefore clearer) reproductions from the original molds--the fragile molds were long ago placed in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. Three bronze sets were made; one was given to Lloyd George of England when Father did his portrait at 10 Downing Street, London, at the behest of our National Gallery. The other was presented to King Albert of Belgium when Father painted his portrait in Belgium and that, too, was commissioned by the National Gallery.

These fine pieces really belong in a museum and so, for the first time, I am considering relinquishing them. So much I would like to present them to some Society, but cannot do so and I wonder if you would care to purchase the group. I have approached no others in this matter.

I have also the reminiscences written by my grand-father, Leonard Volk, concerning his association with notable contemporaries of Lincoln's campaign period and the events leading up to the sittings Lincoln gave for the making of the mask and the modeling of the bust in the old Chicago Portland Block studio. The casting of Lincoln's





right and left hands was made in the little white house in Springfield, Illinois, at the time of Lincoln's nomination for the Presidency and the bronze right hand shows a marked swollen condition due to the hand-shaking by congratulatory citizens.

Undoubtedly you have read excerpts from the fascinating memoirs that have been published from time to time. The manuscripts and the bronze mask and hands really belong together, but I may put the MSS into the hands of a publisher to be printed in their entirety.

You are probably aware that busts of Lincoln appear sporadically in the market professing to be original Volks and the story of the Volk-Lincoln association become increasingly imaginative. And I fear great sums are occasionally paid for spurious pieces.

I do not know how to go about allocating my things and so I make the direct approach to you.

Sincerely yours,

*Marion U. Bridge (Mrs. Ezra Bridge).*

P.S.

In his later years my father carried on the tradition by doing Lincoln studies and a number of his canvases hang in museums. My favorite is the young Lincoln called Breasting the Winds and that was inspired by Leonard Volk's description of him as he saw him on a campaign in Illinois. He wrote: "I saw him (Lincoln) taking immense strides with carpet bag and umbrella in his hand, his body craned forward, apparently over the balance like the Leaning Tower of Pisa, moving something like a hurricane across the rough stubble field." A magnificent full page reproduction was made of this painting (by Douglas Volk) in The World color gravure section February 13, 1927. <sup>Painting</sup> This is now in a Norfolk, Va., Museum.





April 21, 1949

Mrs. Ezra Bridge  
110 Highland Parkway  
Rochester 7, New York

Dear Madam:

We are indeed pleased to have the information contained in your letter of April 20, 1949 about the Volk mask and hands of Lincoln. We have a great many reproductions of the mask here secured from different parts of the country, two or three of them very early, others perhaps not quite so good.

We do have a very fine bronze head of Lincoln here known as the short head, made by Volk, and also one of his very fine large busts, and another one called the new bust. We have written several articles on the Volk studies, so we are quite familiar with the story. I do not think, however, we would care to acquire these items which you have available, I am sure the price would be prohibitive for the budget which we now have.

Thank you very much, however, for calling them to our attention.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director

021 8. 1. 1

1974

The first part of the report is devoted to a description of the experimental setup and the results of the measurements. The second part is devoted to a discussion of the results and a comparison with the theoretical predictions. The third part is devoted to a conclusion and a summary of the results.

The experimental setup consists of a vacuum chamber with a diameter of 10 cm. The chamber is equipped with a gas inlet and a gas outlet. The gas inlet is connected to a gas cylinder and the gas outlet is connected to a vacuum pump. The chamber is also equipped with a pressure gauge and a temperature gauge. The results of the measurements are shown in Figure 1.

The discussion of the results shows that the experimental results are in good agreement with the theoretical predictions. The conclusion is that the experimental setup is suitable for the study of the properties of the gas.

References

[1]



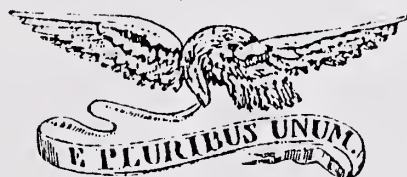
*original sale catalogue*

*The Immortal*  
AUTOGRAPH LETTERS • DOCUMENTS  
MANUSCRIPTS • PORTRAITS  
PERSONAL RELICS AND OTHER  
LINCOLNIANA

*Collected by the Late*  
**OLIVER R. BARRETT**

CHICAGO

*Sold by Order of*  
*The Executors of His Estate*  
*and of*  
*Roger W. Barrett • Chicago*



Public Auction Sale  
Tuesday and Wednesday  
February 19 and 20 at 1:45 and 3 p. m.

PARKE-BERNET GALLERIES • INC  
*New York • 1952*





242. LINCOLN, ABRAHAM. Bronze Cast of Lincoln's right hand, closed, and holding a section of broom-handle cut for the purpose. Replica; hollow cast; with ring at wrist for hanging the hand.

#### VOLK'S LIFE MASK OF LINCOLN

243. LINCOLN, ABRAHAM. Bronze cast of the Life Mask of President Lincoln made by L. W. Volk in 1860. Smoothly shaven face showing part of the neck and a small portion of hair on the forehead. This mask is well-known.

[See illustration facing page 103]

244. LINCOLN, ABRAHAM. White plaster casts of face and both hands of Lincoln. The mask has "Copyrighted 1836, by Leonard [W. Volk]" on edge. The two hands have metal tag "A Lincoln, from Life by L. W. Volk, 1860. C. Hennecke & Co., Mfrs. and sole Agts., Milwaukee & Chicago". 3 pieces.

245. LINCOLN, ABRAHAM. Portfolio/wallet, with signature: "A. Lincoln, Springfield, Ills." inscribed on flap. Has also the manuscript label "Herndon" pasted on it. 1860

246. LINCOLN, ROBERT T. A.L.s. "R. T. Lincoln". 3 1/2 pp., 8vo, December 2, 1860. To "Dear Mother".

Written while a student at Phillips Exeter Academy, and has a woodcut view of the Academy at the top of the sheet.

Sandburg in *Lincoln Collector*, p. 161, reprints this letter and introduces it with the note "Robert Todd Lincoln began to have his embarrassments over being the son of the President-elect, and was collegiate in his humor, with long excuses".

Reads in part: "... I see by the papers that you have been to Chicago. Aint you beginning to get a little tired of this constant uproar? I have a couple of friends from St. Louis who are going to the inauguration. ... I have invited them to stop at our house on their road. You will remember I wrote to father about a fellow, who is boring me considerably. He cupped the clowns lately. There was a Republican levee and supper at Cambridge to which I was invited. I did not go, for I anticipated what really happened. ..."

#### "THE TUG HAS TO COME & BETTER NOW THAN LATER"

247. LINCOLN, ABRAHAM. A.L.s. 1 p., 8vo. Springfield, Ills. Dec. 11, 1860. To William Kellogg, marked "Private & Confidential".

An important and highly significant letter reflecting Lincoln's determination to allow no compromise on the all-important issue of slavery. There were rumors of such a possibility during December, 1860, and Lincoln hastened to state his position in clear terms. He writes:

"Entertain no proposition for a compromise in regard to the extension of slavery. The

[Continued





Montrose (Colo.) Daily  
**Life Masks** *Progress*  
**Of Lincoln** 2-12-55  
**Given Library**

A bronze coated life mask of Abraham Lincoln's head and his hands have been presented to the Shenandoah public library by A. B. Olson, 306 Crescent Street, retired Colorado banking official.

They are the work of Leonard W. Volk, sculptor, and were secured from the Lincoln Life Foundation, 1301 S. Harrison Street, Fort Wayne, Ind. The Library of Congress recommended the foundation to Mr. Olson.

The treasured gift to the library will be on exhibit for Lincoln's Birthday, Saturday, February 12.



MINKEL, MR. L. E.

NOVEMBER 3, 1964

poor copy of a poor copy

November 3, 1964

Dear Mr. Minkel:

I think you will have a great deal of trouble in determining how many pairs of hands of Lincoln are in existence. There are three sets in the possession of the Chicago Historical Society.

It seems that Mr. Jules Berchem received the original set from Leonard Volk and from those made copies both in plaster and bronze, of which the first set made from the original was presented to the Society.

The three pairs are inscribed as follows:

"A. Lincoln / L. W. Volk - 1360"

"Jules Berchem / A. Lincoln / L. W. Volk / 1360 fecit"

"A. Lincoln, L. W. Volk, Facit - 1361"

We have a Parke-Bernet catalog of 1952 showing a bronze cast of the life mask of Lincoln. There is a notation that this mask sold for \$90 at that auction.

I am enclosing a reproduction of a typescript from our manuscript collection concerning the original bust and reproductions. I cannot say whether the proposed action ever took place.

It is interesting to note that some newspaper articles (and recent ones, at that) contend that the bust and hands were lost in the Chicago fire of 1871, while other accounts state that the original mask and hands were safe with Volk when he was in Rome at this time.

I don't know whether you will ever find the number of reproductions made, but do hope that you will find the enclosed information of some interest.

Sincerely yours,

James E. Morris  
Reference Librarian

Mr. L. E. Minkel  
Rural Route #3  
Cassopolis, Michigan

Berchem





*St. Gaudens*  
Dear Sir:

The Committee wish to report that the original casts and duplicates in bronze are now in possession of the National Museum. They also beg leave to call attention to the terms upon which the subscription is made and therefore send to you the following:

The Committee.

New York, February 1, 1886.

Dear Sir:

The undersigned have undertaken to obtain the subscription of fifty dollars each, from not less than twenty persons, for the purchase from Mr. Douglas Volk of the original casts taken by his father, the sculptor, Mr. Leonard W. Volk, from the living face and hands of Abraham Lincoln, to be presented, together with bronze replicas thereof, to the Government of the United States for preservation in the National Museum at Washington.

The subscribers are themselves each to be furnished with replicas of the three casts in plaster or bronze. If in plaster, there will be no extra charge beyond the regular subscription of \$50.; if the complete set is desired in bronze, the subscription will be for \$85; if the cast of the face only is desired in bronze, the hands being in plaster, the subscription will be for \$75.

A condition of the gift to the Government will be that the originals shall never be tampered with, and that any casts taken in the future shall be from the bronze replicas and not from the original casts. It will also be stipulated that for a period of ten years, or until January 1, 1896, no casts shall be made, or permitted to be made, by the government. Subscribers will also be asked to agree that until the same date, January 1st, 1896, they will permit no casts to be taken from the replicas in their possession, while during the same period Mr. Leonard Volk, or his heirs will be permitted to dispose of copies at not less than the sums paid by the subscribers.

Those wishing to take part in the subscription will notify at once either of the undersigned

Augustus St. Gaudens, 148 West 56th St.  
Thomas B. Clarke, 203 West 44th St.  
Richard Watson Gilder, care of Century Magazine,  
33 East 17th St.

*ack*

*Mr. Rodman Gilder*

*Through*

*H. St. Gaudens*

*123 W. Madison St - Chicago*





This case contains the first cast made in the mold taken from the living face of Abraham Lincoln by Leonard W. Volk, sculptor in Chicago in the year 1860. Also the first casts made in the molds from Lincoln's hand, likewise made by Leonard Volk in Springfield, Illinois, on the Sunday following Lincoln's nomination for the Presidency in May 1860. Also the first bronze cast of the face-mold and bronze casts of the hands. Presented to the Government of the United States for deposit in the National Museum by thirty-three subscribers.

Committee      Thomas B. Clarke,  
                  Augustus St. Gaudens,  
                  Richard Watson Gilder,  
                  Erwin Davis-

Benjamin Altman  
Boston Athenaeum  
J.L. Cadwalader  
William Carey  
The Century Co.,  
George F. Childs  
Erwin Davis  
Alex W. Drake  
Dr. Geo. M. Eddy  
Fairmount Park Assn., Phila.  
Richard Watson Gilder,  
J.J. Glassner,  
John Hay  
E.W. Hooper,  
Walter Howe  
Henry E. Howland

B. Scott Hart  
Henry Irving  
Dr. P.J. Koons  
Enoch Lewis  
R.J. Lyle  
J.S. Mack  
Payson Merrill  
S. Weir Mitchell  
Allen Thorndike Rice  
Jacob Schiff  
Bran Stoker  
F.J. Stinson  
Augustus St. Gaudens  
Dr. William Thomson  
Alexis Turner  
J.C.A. Ward





Founded 1856

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**CHICAGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY** · North Avenue and Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois 60614

Andrew McNally III, *President* · Theodore Ticken, *1st Vice-President* · James R. Getz, *2nd Vice-President* · Gardner H. Stern, *Treasurer* · Paul M. Angle, *Secretary*

Clement M. Silvestro, *Director*

**July 15, 1970**

**Dear Mr. McMurtry:**

This may be old stuff to you, but because I did not know about a life mask of Lincoln by Bartlett, I copied the note below when I ran across it.

Do not bother to acknowledge this.

Sincerely yours

*Margaret Scriven*  
(Miss) Margaret Scriven

[Gift]

"From Mrs. Herbert Lawton, a replica of the life mask of Lincoln made by Truman H. Bartlett."

[Massachusetts Historical Society  
Proceedings, October, 1927-June, 1928.  
Boston, 1928. vol. 61, p. 41.]

Mr. R. Gerald McMurtry  
Lincoln National Life Foundation  
1301 South Harrison St.  
Fort Wayne, Indiana 36801





# Massachusetts Historical Society

1154 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON

MASSACHUSETTS 02215

July 21, 1970

Mr. R. Gerald McMurtry  
Director  
The Lincoln National Life Foundation  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Mr. McMurtry:

I feel quite sure that the statement about which you queried us (of which a Xerox is enclosed) in fact means that Truman H. Bartlett copied a Volk life mask, and very likely that which this Society now owns. I call your attention to the additional Xeroxes enclosed on the Volk life mask and hands. Our bill for these Xeroxes is enclosed.

Unfortunately, because of a building addition program here, the replica -- assuming we still have it -- is in sealed storage and will remain there for at least the next two years.

Faithfully yours,

*Malcolm Freiberg*

Malcolm Freiberg  
Editor of Publications

MF/p  
enclosures





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### DECEMBER MEETING.

THE Society met in the Dowse Library on Thursday, December 8, 1927, at 3 P. M., Vice-President LEFAVOUR, in the absence of the President, in the chair.

The record of the November meeting was read and approved.

The Librarian reported the following accessions:

From Delano Wight, papers collected by him as assistant officer in charge of the draft in the World War, in the Adjutant General's office, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 1917-1919.

The Cabinet-Keeper reported the following gifts:

From Mrs. Herbert Lawton, a replica of the life mask of Lincoln made by Truman H. Bartlett.

From Thomas Johnston Homer, a photostat of the Arch and Colonnade erected for the visit to Boston in 1789 of Washington, who was there welcomed by a select choir of singers, "with Daniel Rea, the most famous vocalist of Boston in that day, at their head."

From Dr. John W. Farlow, three photographs, the Harvard Class of 1866 on its Sixtieth Anniversary, the O. K. Club of the Class, and Dr. William Gilson Farlow.

From Joseph Leman Vondel, of Sharon, a photograph of the portrait of Governor Francis Bernard.

From the State of New York, the bronze medal struck to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the inauguration of Governor George Clinton.

The Corresponding Secretary reported that a letter had been received from Edward Motley Pickman, of Bedford, accepting Resident Membership in the Society.

Dr. John Warren, of Boston, was elected a Resident Member of the Society, and Judge Frederic William Howay of New Westminster, British Columbia, was elected a Corresponding Member.

Mr. MEAD submitted a paper, read by Mr. Wolkins, on



February, 1948

449

## January Meeting, 1948

THE Society met in the Dowse Library on Thursday, January 8, 1948, at half-past three o'clock, President BIGELOW in the chair.

The record of the December meeting was read and approved.

The Director reported accessions:

From Edward L. Pierce, of Princeton, New Jersey, a small collection of Pierce family papers for the period 1843-1851, containing letters written by Edward L. Pierce (1829-1897), a former Member of this Society, and Henry L. Pierce (1825-1896), a mayor of Boston and a member of Congress.

From Howard Whitcomb, Frederick W. Wead, and Mrs. Alden H. Clark, nee Mary S. Whitcomb, the Whitcomb Papers (1705-1911). The Director read a section from the journal of Samuel Whitcomb, a Boston bookseller, narrating his visit to Thomas Jefferson, at Monticello, in 1824.

From Augustus P. Loring, Jr., Ellery Sedgwick, and Stewart Mitchell, an offset edition of the *British Museum Catalogue of Printed Books* (1881-1900), in fifty-eight volumes.

The Corresponding Secretary reported the receipt of letters from ARNOLD JOSEPH TOYNBEE, of London, and FREDERICK MAURICE POWICKE, of Oxford, accepting their election to Honorary Membership.

The chair announced the death of GASPAR GRISWOLD BACON, of Dedham, on December 25, 1947, a Resident Member of the Society since June 8, 1933.

Mr. WILLIAM GREENE ROELKER read a paper entitled "Benjamin Franklin and My Great-Great-Great-Grandmother."

## February Meeting, 1948

THE Society met in the Dowse Library on Thursday, February 12, 1948, at half-past three o'clock, President BIGELOW in the chair.

In the absence of Mr. GRINNELL, Mr. WHITEHILL was chosen Recording Secretary pro tempore.

The record of the January meeting was read and approved.

The Director reported accessions:

see next page





Feb., 1948

From Albert Francis Bigelow, the silhouette portraits of Alpheus Bigelow, Elijah Bigelow, Eunice Bigelow, and Anna Hagar.

From Miss Mary Orne Bowditch, of Boston, the bronze casts of the life mask and hands of Abraham Lincoln, made in Chicago and Springfield in 1860. In June, 1919, her uncle, Charles Pickering Bowditch, brother of her father, Alfred Bowditch, deposited these casts in the Society as a loan from her. Today, Miss Bowditch, at the suggestion of her brother-in-law, Augustus P. Loring, Jr., is making a gift to the Society of this deposit in honor of the one hundred and thirty-ninth anniversary of Lincoln's birth. The molds for these casts were made in 1860 by Leonard W. Volk, the sculptor who afterwards made a bust and two full-length statues of Lincoln. These casts came into the possession of Truman H. Bartlett, who gave them to Alfred Bowditch, from whom Miss Bowditch inherited them.

From Lammot du Pont Copeland, of Wilmington, Delaware, *Rules and Regulations for the Government of the True Fire Society instituted at Boston, March 1, 1754* (Boston, 1807).

By purchase: a small collection of manuscripts relating to Isaac Barker and other inhabitants of Plymouth County, 1665-1726.

Mr. C. E. Whitamore, H.M. Consul General in Boston, then officially presented, on behalf of the British Admiralty, to the President and the Society, sixteen canceled naval charts of the coasts of Massachusetts and Maine, prepared by British engineers and surveyors about one hundred and eighty years ago, these being part of a collection of two hundred charts which comprised an atlas known as the *Atlantic Neptune*.

After President BIGELOW had accepted these plates on behalf of the Society, Mr. JACKSON, of the Houghton Library, Harvard College, placed on exhibition the Harvard College copy of the *Atlantic Neptune* and certain additional illustrative material which he had brought from Cambridge.

The Society elected Parkman Dexter Howe, of Needham, and Benjamin Joy, of Boston, to Resident Membership; Stephen Hyatt Pelham Pell, of Fort Ticonderoga, New York, and James Garfield Randall, of Urbana, Illinois, to Corresponding Membership; and Affonso de Escragnolle Taunay, of São Paulo, Brazil, and Vicente Lecuna, of Caracas, Venezuela, to Honorary Membership.

The Society *voted* the following changes in the By-Laws:

In CHAPTER I, *Article 6*, insert the words—or Associate—after the word—Resident—, so that the Article shall read—No entrance fee or annual payment shall be required of Corresponding or Honorary Members; nor of Resident or Associate Members unless by special vote of the Society.



THE LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

COPY

July 24, 1970

Miss Margaret Scriven  
Chicago Historical Society  
North Avenue and Clark Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60614

Dear Miss Scriven:

I think the enclosed Xerox pages will explain  
that Bartlett did not make a life mask of Lincoln.

Instead, Bartlett made replicas of the Volk  
studies.

Yours sincerely,

R. Gerald McMurtry

RGM/cvrw  
Enclosures

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**CHICAGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY** · North Avenue and Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois 60614

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Clement M. Silvestro, *Director*

July 25, 1970

Dear Mr. McMurtry:

This matter of life masks of Lincoln is fun if you can keep it straight. I cannot. Volk's mold, still in existence? Casts, how many, made from this in plaster and in bronze? Bartlett made "replicas," sculpted them? How many? Massachusetts Historical Society has a Bartlett replica -- plaster, bronze, marble? -- and a bronze cast of the head and hands made from Volk's mold? Confusion compounded. Just to make it worse, I am sending copies of two other items we have here.

I suspect that you made copies of the Xerox pages sent by the Mass. Hist. Soc., but just to be sure, we are making copies for our use, and returning the ones you sent.

Sincerely yours

(Miss) Margaret Scriven  
Special Projects Librarian

Enclosures: 2

Mr. R. Gerald McMurtry  
Lincoln National Life Foundation  
1301 So. Harrison St.  
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801

1. Introduction

2. Methodology

The study was conducted in a laboratory setting. The participants were 20 healthy adults, aged 20-30 years, with no history of neurological disorders. They were randomly assigned to two groups: a control group and an experimental group. The control group received a placebo, while the experimental group received a treatment. The treatment was administered in a single dose. The participants were then subjected to a series of tests to measure their cognitive and motor performance. The results of the tests were compared between the two groups. The data showed that the experimental group performed significantly better than the control group in all tests. This suggests that the treatment has a positive effect on cognitive and motor performance. The study was limited by a small sample size and a short duration. Further research is needed to confirm these findings.

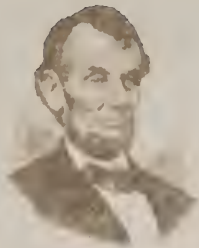
3. Results and Discussion

4. Conclusion

The results of the study indicate that the treatment has a positive effect on cognitive and motor performance. This suggests that the treatment may be a promising approach for improving cognitive and motor function in healthy adults. Further research is needed to confirm these findings and to explore the underlying mechanisms of the treatment's effect.

5. References

1. Smith, J. D., & Jones, A. B. (2010). The effects of treatment on cognitive and motor performance. *Journal of Cognitive and Motor Behavior*, 12(3), 45-55.



*Its name indicates its character*

## The Lincoln National Life Foundation

Fort Wayne, Indiana

R. GERALD MCMURTRY  
DIRECTOR

July 27, 1970

Miss Margaret Scriven  
Special Projects Librarian  
Chicago Historical Society  
North Avenue and Clark Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60614

Dear Miss Scriven:

I read your letter and enclosures with interest about replicas of the Volk mask. We have one made by Avar Fairbanks and for thirty-five or forty years, the Foundation sold Volk masks. They are manufactured by the Mazzolini Artcraft Company, 1607 East 41 Street, Cleveland, Ohio. Today the mask (plaster) sells for \$10. They can be purchased in any quantity.

The letter by St. Gaudens, Clark, and Gilder contains information I never knew before; namely, that no casts of the Volk mask be made before January 1, 1896.

Thank you for the information you have sent me.

Yours sincerely,

R. Gerald McMurtry

RGM/cvrvw

W.H.

32

W.H.



# Gobin Memorial United Methodist Church

GREENCASTLE, INDIANA 46135

TELEPHONE AREA 317 653-3196

13 September, 1979

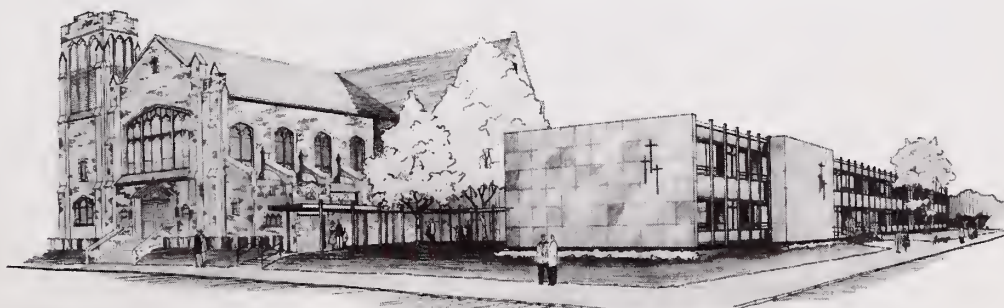
Mark E. Neely, Jr., Director  
The Louis A. Warren Lincoln Museum  
1300 South Clinton Street  
Fort Wayne, IN 46801

Dear Mr. Neely:

You asked that I give you some background on my copy of the Volk mask of Lincoln. The mask was purchased from Sharon Burson of Casey, Illinois, in July of 1979. The mask came to Mrs. Burson in a divorce settlement from her husband, Gene Berchem, who had inherited it from his father, Alfred Berchem, who had inherited it from his father, Jules Berchem, a friend of Leonard W. Volk and superintendent of the American Art Bronze Foundry Co. in Chicago. Jules Berchem had come to this country from France at age nine and is most noted for his work with the "Soldiers and Sailors Monument" in Indianapolis and his "George Rogers Clark" in Vincennes.

These facts are known about the various Volk masks:

- 1) The original cast of the mask was made by Volk on Saturday, March 31, 1860.
- 2) Then, to quote a November 3, 1964 letter from James E. Morris, Reference Librarian of the Chicago Historical Society: "It seems that Mr. Jules Berchem received the original set from Leonard Volk and from these made copies both in plaster and bronze, of which the first set made from the original was presented to the Society."
- 3) For some time the original cast of the mask (and the Lincoln hands) were lost, but were rediscovered by Richard W. Gilder, who, together with Augustus Saint Gaudens, Thomas B. Clarke and Erwin Davis, secured thirty-three subscribers (see names attached) to purchase the casts and present them, with bronze copies, to the Smithsonian Institution. The first bronze copies were made by Saint Gaudens and bore under the chin the inscription, "Copyright 1886 by Leonard W. Volk."
- 4) In 1909 Jules Berchem, Volk's friend who had cast several bronze works signed by Volk (some of which are still owned by the Berchem family), made replicas from the original Volk mask in his possession that he might sell them in the centennial year of Lincoln's birth. All these replicas bore Berchem's name. He presented one such copy to the Chicago Historical Society in October of 1913.
- 5) Other masks have surfaced from time to time, including one from the collection of Major William H. Lambert of Philadelphia in 1914. This



*A Christ-Centered Community Church In The  
Heart of Greencastle At DePauw University*

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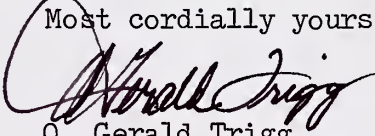
mask, selling at auction in 1914 for \$325 was signed on the lower edge, "L.W. Volk, fecit, 1860."

- 6) The Volk mask in my possession thus represents a unique position in this listing.
- a. It was apparently the first or "master" copy made from the original, if we are to take the report of the Chicago Historical Society's Reference Librarian as fact.
  - b. It thus predates by some 25 or 26 years the editions made for the thirty-three subscribers of the Smithsonian copy.
  - c. It carries the inscription under the chin: "A. LINCOLN · 1860 · L. W. VOLK · fecit". Because all of Berchem's copies carried Berchem's name, and because he engraved an "M" (signifying "MASTER") behind the left ear, and because this was the copy he bequeathed to his family, I believe the case is strong that this is probably the oldest casting of the Volk Lincoln mask in existence, inasmuch as the one claiming to be the oldest, in the Smithsonian, bears the inscription under the chin: "Copyright 1886 by Leonard W. Volk."

I am deeply appreciative to you for your assistance in my search for data, and trust that this information will be of help to you should you desire to write up the find. I would use some discretion in the mentioning of Mrs. Burson receiving the mask in a divorce settlement. She did, of course, and I have the notarized bill of sale and all the rest, but that phrasing should be done with care.

If you have further suggestions or requests, please make them known. And if you could send any sort of letter giving your opinion (not formal appraisal) of the mask's value, I would deeply appreciate it.

Most cordially yours,

  
O. Gerald Trigg  
302 S. Locust St.  
Greencastle, IN. 46135

P.S. I was going to enclose the names of the original 33 subscribers, but note that you have these names already.





# Gobin Memorial United Methodist Church

GREENCASTLE, INDIANA 46135

TELEPHONE AREA 317 653-3196

25 June, 1980

Mark E. Neely, Jr., Director  
The Louis A. Warren Lincoln Museum  
Fort Wayne, IN 46801

Dear Mark:

My growing fascination with the Volk castings and Berchem's role in them has led me to further research and conclusions which, while dating my items much later than I first had speculated, confirm that they are indeed the oldest extant bronzes.

As you will see from the biographical data regarding both Volk and Berchem, the weight of evidence suggests that Berchem received the Volk molds or casts at some time between 1882 (when Berchem began his work as a bronze master in Chicago) and 1886 (when Volk's son, Douglas, sold them to a group of 33 who turned them over to the Smithsonian). Given the quality of the bronze copies by Saint Gaudens now in various museums, including the Illinois State Museum in Springfield, there is no way a copy made by Berchem of one of the copyrighted 1886 bronzes could improve so substantially on the item copied. (Even Berchem's copies of 1913 fall off in quality). Berchem's "masters" had to come from an earlier and better source. Since he could not have had access to originals after 1886, the letter from the Chicago Historical Society's Reference Librarian stating that Jules Berchem received the original set from Leonard Volk provides the clue to that source.

Now, inasmuch as the items I have are marked with the "M" (at least the mask and the right hand), I must therefore assume that these represent the master models from which Berchem made his later copies.

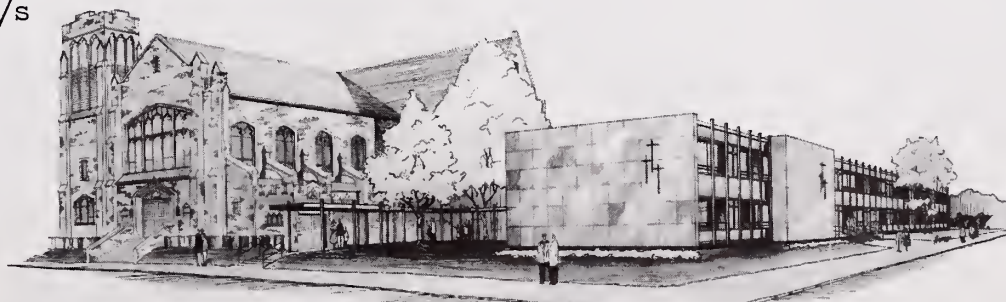
I can find no mention of existing bronzes pre-dating 1886. I would thus conclude that these Berchem masters do without question precede that date, and thus are the oldest extant bronzes. I have attempted to come up with another logical conclusion, but cannot. What do you think?

I shall do my best to make it to Fort Wayne the week of July 14th, for you to examine and photograph the hands. Let me hear if this will be impossible for you.

Yours in the search,

*Gerald*  
O. Gerald Trigg

OGT/s



A Christ-Centered Community Church In The  
Heart of Greencastle At DePauw University

GOBIN'S STAFF  
O. GERALD TRIGG  
MINISTER-DIRECTOR  
HOWARD W. ELLIS  
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ROBERT HARBISON  
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GEORGE BURDON  
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CLYDE LININGER  
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CONNECTIONAL  
LEADERS  
RALPH T. ALTON  
RESIDENT BISHOP  
ALDA I. CARTER  
SUPERINTENDENT



LEONARD WELLS VOLK

Born in Wellstown, N.Y., Novemb

Studied marble cutting with his

Opened first studio in St. Louis

Studied in Rome

Opened Chicago studio in 1857

Met Lincoln in Chicago in 1858

Cast Lincoln's face in Plaster,

Cast Lincoln's hands, Springfield

Chicago fire destroyed many Volk

All but hands: "Later on all o  
al items, except the casts of  
were lost in the Chicago fire.  
in Lincoln Lore, #731, April 1

All but face and hands: "Several  
items which Volk carried back t  
were destroyed in the conflagre  
and the sculptor saved the cast  
and hands by taking them with t  
to Rome." F. L. Bullard, in Li  
Marble and Bronze, 1952.

Gave life mask and casts of Linco  
son, Stephen Douglas Volk. (unkno  
Warren, in Durman's He Belongs to  
3.1951.

Died





A SUMMARY OF KNOWN FACTS REGARDING VOLK AND BERCHEM

LEONARD WELLS VOLK

Born in Wellstown, N.Y., November 8, 1828

Studied marble cutting with his father

Opened first studio in St. Louis

Studied in Rome

Opened Chicago studio in 1857

Met Lincoln in Chicago in 1858

Cast Lincoln's face in Plaster, March-April, 1860

Cast Lincoln's hands, Springfield, June, 1860

Chicago fire destroyed many Volk items 1871

All but hands: "Later on all of these personal items, except the casts of Lincoln's hands, were lost in the Chicago fire." Louis Warren, in Lincoln Lore, #731, April 12, 1943.

All but face and hands: "Several association items which Volk carried back to Chicago were destroyed in the conflagration of 1871, and the sculptor saved the casts of the face and hands by taking them with him on a trip to Rome." F. L. Bullard, in Lincoln in Marble and Bronze, 1952.

Gave life mask and casts of Lincoln's hands to son, Stephen Douglas Volk. (unknown date) L.A. Warren, in Durman's He Belongs to the Ages, p. 3.1951.

Died 1895

JULES BERCHEM

Born in Grenoble, France, December 11, 1855

Indentured into bronze work 1866

Came to America, bronze master in Chicago 1882

Cast Volk's mask and hands into Bronze (date unknown)

"Mr. Jules Berchem received the original set from Leonard Volk and from these made copies..." James E. Morris, Reference Librarian, Chicago Historical Society, November 3, 1964, letter in Louis A. Warren Museum.

Began his own Foundry 1885

Makes copies from "Master" casts for Lincoln Centennial 1906

Presents copies to Chicago Historical Soc. 1913

Died, Oak Park, Ill. 1930

VOLK IN THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Plaster casts and bronze copies presented to Smithsonian Institution Feb/ 1886.

"Mr. Richard W. Gilder...with Augustus Saint Gaudens and a few others, purchased the casts and presented them with bronze copies to the Smithsonian Institution. The first bronze copies were made by Saint Gaudens." Warren, op. cit. Both mask and hands are inscribed, 'copy-right, 1886.'



Trigg

August 4, 1980

Rev. O. Gerald Trigg  
Gobin Memorial United Methodist Church  
Greencastle, Indiana 46135

Dear Reverend Trigg:

The photographs this time are very good, and you will be pleased, I think, with what you see of them in Lincoln Lore. I will send you extra prints as soon as they are available.

Once again, many thanks for your help in giving us this good story for Lincoln Lore. Keep in touch.

Best regards,

Mark E. Neely, Jr.

MEN/jaf

August 11, 1938

Rev. J. Gerald Trigg  
Golden Memorial United Methodist Church  
Greensboro, Indiana 46135

Dear Reverend Trigg:

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MEM/jat



## HAS EARLIEST VOLK MASK SURFACED?

Dr. O. Gerald Trigg is the Senior Minister of Gobin Memorial United Methodist Church on the campus of DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana.

A collector of books, Dr. Trigg owns more than 4000 volumes, most of which serve as resource material for his preaching and teaching, but many of which have been collected because "their value transcends the paper and binding." Although these books may range from autographed first editions by an Ogden Nash or Margaret Bourke-White, most are religious. Indeed, his first acquisition was a 1648 King James Bible, containing the famous Sternhold and Hopkins "Whole Book of Psalms in the English Meter" and the liturgy for the Church of England, purchased for \$60 while <sup>he was</sup> a freshman at Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi, in 1953. He owns first editions of John Wesley, Frances Asbury and numerous other Methodist related items. One of his most prized possessions is a first edition of Phillips Brooks' Light of the World, heavily underlined by its first owner, who drew from one of the chapters the inspiration for a hymn. That first owner, who signed his name boldly, was Washington Gladden, and the inspired hymn was "O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee."

Though not into collecting per se, Dr. Trigg (who holds degrees from Millsaps, Vanderbilt and DePauw) does have a collection of Lincoln books and ~~a set~~ <sup>a set</sup> of the earliest Hesler 1860 Lincoln photos, given him by a member of his parish.

Within the past year Dr. Trigg was visiting a parishioner who was hospitalized in Terre Haute, Indiana, some fifty miles from Greencastle. He was informed that the patient was undergoing tests and could not be seen for yet another hour. How does a busy minister cool his heels for an hour? If you're Gerald Trigg you visit shops which might have old books. In one shop he noted the strikingly familiar face of Lincoln etched in bronze. Realizing that he had seen the same face years before in the Smithsonian Institution, he asked if he might examine the item more closely. Impressed by its remarkably preserved features, including pores on the skin, he asked the story behind the mask. He was informed that it had been placed for sale more than a year earlier by a member of the Berchem family, from Illinois, that it had a long history within that family, and that the person now owning it was asking a certain price but that, in the year it had been on display, no one wanted to pay the price. As attracted as he was to the hauntingly beautiful mask, Dr. Trigg returned it to the shop owner, visited his parishioner, and returned to Greencastle.

The next day he determined to discover more about the mask. Looking in the DePauw Library through past issues of "Lincoln Lore," he concluded that this was a remarkably well preserved early copy of the famous Leonard Wells Volk life mask of Lincoln. And, as in Jesus' parable of "the pearl of great price," he decided to empty his bank account and purchase it.

Then began the search into its background, with letters and phone calls to the Smithsonian, the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Museum, the Chicago Historical Society, and to anyone else who seemed to know anything at all about the various Volk masks which are on record.



As his data <sup>grew</sup> ~~amassed~~, Dr. Trigg was increasingly convinced that he ~~was~~ indeed ~~he~~ possessed <sup>ed</sup> ~~one~~ of one of the earliest of the Volk masks. The question was, how early?

Remarkably early, as it turns out. It is known, for example, that the original cast of the mask was made by Volk on Saturday, March 31, 1860, shortly before Lincoln was nominated for President. Most authorities believe that the original molds and casts of the mask and the Lincoln hands were destroyed in Volk's Chicago studio by the great fire of 1871. Yet, in the Smithsonian Institution are preserved what have been called the "original" casts of the mask and hands, apparently rediscovered in the 1880's by Richard W. Gilder, who, together with Augustus Saint-Gaudens, Thomas B. Clark and Erwin Davis, secured thirty-three subscribers to purchase the casts and present them, with plaster and bronze copies, to the Smithsonian with the stipulation that no additional copies be made for some 10 years. These Smithsonian masks, and the plaster and bronze copies for the subscribers made by Saint-Gaudens, bear under the chin the inscription, "Copyright 1886 by Leonard W. Volk." It is also noted that on the Smithsonian original bronze, there is a small "w" behind the left ear "which appears to be from a flaw in the mold."

Enter Jules Berchem, bronze master and friend of Leonard Volk. Berchem had come to this country at age nine from France, and as a young man established himself as a bronze craftsman with his own foundry near Chicago. Apparently Berchem and Volk developed a working relationship, because the Berchem family still owns a number of signed Volk statuary cast by Jules Berchem. What is known is that, to quote an early letter from a librarian of the Chicago Historical Society, "Mr. Jules Berchem received the original set from Leonard Volk and from these made copies both in plaster and bronze..." From this original set Berchem apparently came up with one beautiful copy which he designated "Master" and stamped an "M" inside, slightly below the left ear. This copy he retained and passed on to his heirs. This master copy bears the inscription under the chin: "A. LINCOLN • 1860 • L. W. VOLK. fecit".

Berchem went on to become Superintendent of the American Art Bronze Foundry Co. in Chicago, and is known for his casts of the "Soldiers and Sailors Monument" in Indianapolis and the "George Rogers Clark" statue in Vincennes. He also produced some beautiful copies of the Volk Lincoln Mask and Hands, but was always careful to inscribe them: "Copyright 1886 by L.W. Volk - J. Berchem." He presented one copy to the Chicago Historical Society in 1913.

But a major question remains. If the "original" molds and casts were destroyed in the fire of 1871, then how did other molds emerge which allowed the preservation of the now famous Volk mask and hands? The answer may well lie with the Berchem "Master" bronze, which escaped the fire. For it, too, has the small "w" behind the left ear that matches exactly the description of the "original" in the Smithsonian. But if the original is in the Smithsonian, then what is the Berchem mask? Could it be that after the original molds were destroyed, Volk made new molds from the Berchem "Master," incorporating the "w" from Berchem's casting, from which the Smithsonian and future copies were made?





One can only conjecture. Lincoln authorities at the Indiana State Museum and the Illinois State Museum acknowledge that Trigg's Volk by Berchem is the finest bronze they have seen, and Ralph Newman, for forty-five years a specialist in Lincolniana, writes, "This is one of the earliest and best of Volk castings." Could it be the oldest extant Volk mask? It surely represents one of the finest of the Volks to surface. And it comes to our attention because a clergyman had an hour to browse before seeing his parishioner.

Dr. Trigg has indicated that the mask will be on exhibit in the DePauw University Archives and on loan to the Indiana State Museum and other established sites for special occasions. "After all," he says, "Lincoln belongs to the ages; ~~should not~~ this striking likeness <sup>must</sup> be shared with the people."



## Original Lincoln casts visit Lincoln Library and Museum



Dating back to the 1880's, this Lincoln mask and hands are copies of original plaster casts made by sculptor Leonard Volk in 1860.

O. Gerald Trigg, a Methodist Minister in Greencastle, Indiana, is the owner of the set. He came across the mask in a Terre Haute pawn shop, and being a collector of various Methodist history books, his historic curiosity got the best of him. Reverend Trigg investigated the matter, with some help from our Lincoln Library and Museum, and found it to be the earliest bronze copy in existence. Two of the pieces are marked with an M which means a master copy, and they are of the finest casting quality, according to Dr. Mark Neely, Director of Lincoln Library and Museum.

Reverend Trigg was making a trip to Michigan and dropped the castings off for the museum's use the week of July 7. Scott Simpson (left), Manager, Audio Visual, and Mike Iller (right), Visual Specialist, are shown taking a picture of the pieces for an article to be printed in *Lincoln Lore*.







## First United Methodist Church

(303) 471-8522

420 North Nevada Avenue  
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903

October 2, 1981

Mr. Mark Neeley, Director  
Lincoln Life Museum  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Mark:

Enclosed you will find the first 'artist's proof' of the Lincoln mask.

I believe you will be impressed, as I was, with the detail which has been preserved. Please do not judge the patina, as the young artisan with whom I am working has ideas about reproducing rather precisely the proper bronze color and so working it into the original material that it does not detract from the casting detail (which, ~~he~~ informs me, happens when the color is added to the surface after the casting.)

I believe I shall be able to provide this kind of mask at a cost of around \$75, and a bronze casting for around \$300. What is your opinion as to its quality and desirability? Should we proceed, or simply make a few copies for my friends?

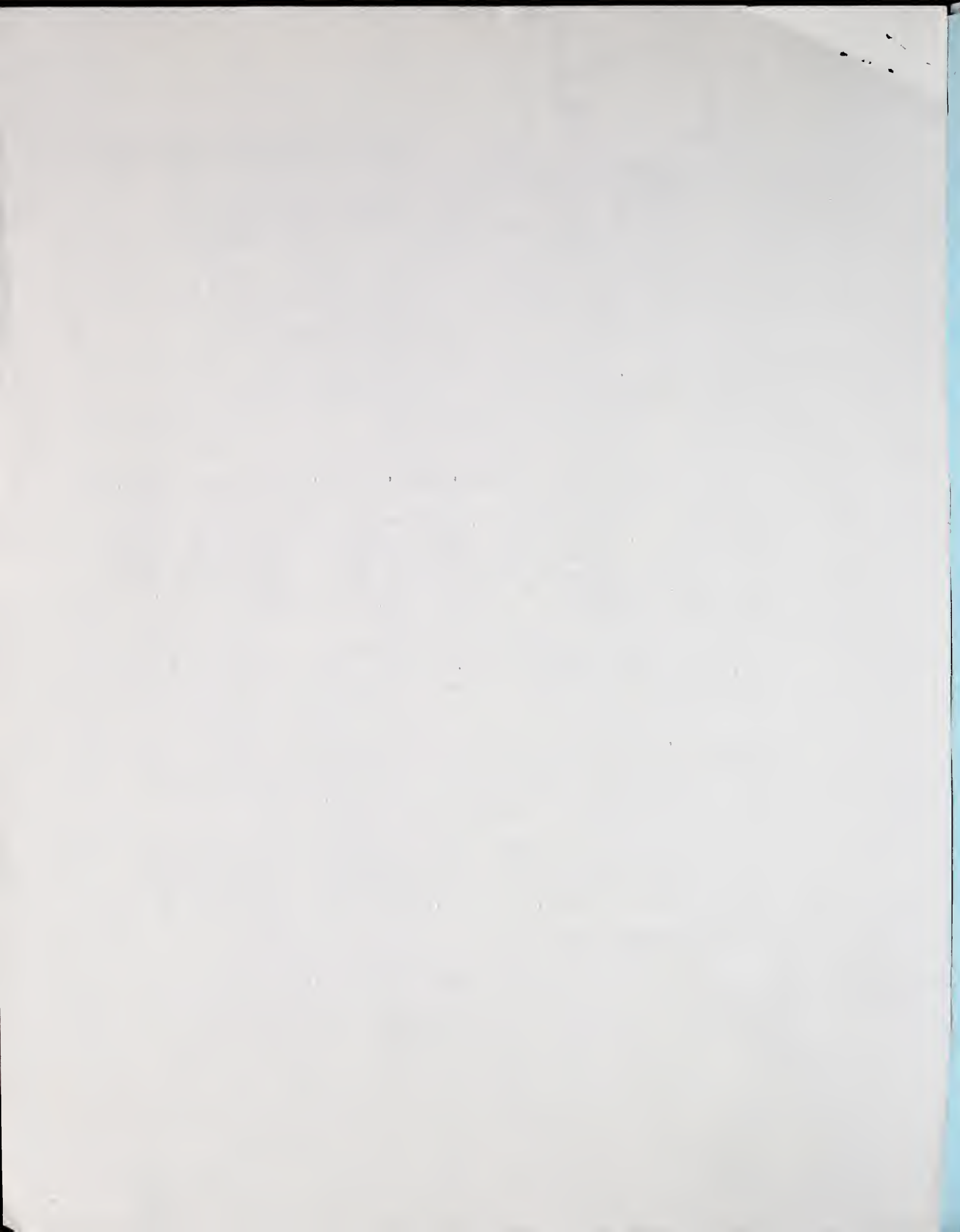
Incidentally, I am wanting to open a few doors in museums for my young artist friend, whose work and gifts in art go mostly unnoticed in his hidden away studio in the mountains. He has been invited to join the Hommel company, but prefers to do his own thing, accepting those projects which give him a sense of satisfaction. This one does.

I would welcome any judgments on this project from those Lincoln authorities whom you might chance to talk. Tell them that we will be providing a limited edition in both bronze and plastic, with a provenance certificate for each piece. Subject, of course, to there being any market for same.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Cordially yours,

  
O. Gerald Trigg



Trigg

November 20, 1981

Dr. O. Gerald Trigg  
First United Methodist Church  
420 North Nevada Avenue  
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903

Dear Dr. Trigg:

I finally snagged Gerald McMurtry to get him to look at the plaster copy of your mask. I'm happy to report that he was ecstatic about it. He thought that it was nearly as good as the original and could be distinguished from bronze almost only by tapping it with one's finger. He immediately said that we should get one right away.

Therefore, you should forget my initial response. Perhaps, as my mother (who was from East Texas) used to say, I had cabbage for breakfast that morning. I noticed that when I pulled it out to show Gerald, I couldn't really remember why I had been so cool at first.

As for the suggested prices, I don't know. Three hundred seems reasonable enough for a bronze, but I wonder about seventy-five for the plaster. It seems a little steep for reaching a broad market of private collectors.

Do you want me to send the mask back or to hold on to it and show it to others?

Best regards,

Mark E. Neely, Jr.

MEN/jaf



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As for the suggested price, I don't know. I would  
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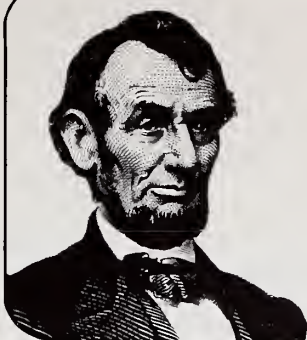
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# Lincoln Lore

April, 1980

Bulletin of the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum. Mark E. Neely, Jr., Editor.  
Mary Jane Hubler, Editorial Assistant. Published each month by the  
Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801.

Number 1706

## BROWNING'S PECULIAR TURN TO THE RIGHT

Those who keep diaries often influence the writing of history far more than they influenced events in their own day. Gideon Welles occupied a position in Lincoln's Cabinet inferior to William H. Seward's and Edwin M. Stanton's, but his sourly independent diary wrecked the reputations of dozens of Washington politicians. One reason the Radical Republicans have fared so poorly in historical writing is that most of the prominent diarists around Lincoln hated them. Welles, John Hay, and Edward Bates saw them as "Jacobins," but there is little evidence that the President saw the Radicals the same way. Salmon P. Chase, whose diary might have balanced the picture over the years, never had the influence on historical writing that the conservatives had, because he did not as clearly admire Lincoln as they did. Criticizing Abraham Lincoln has never been a good way to gain the trust of historians.

The other great diarist near the Lincoln administration, Orville Hickman Browning, was also a Radical-hater. His erratic and ultimately inexplicable political course during the Civil War reveals the danger in relying too heavily on diaries, which may reflect peculiar political positions.

Browning was never much of a "Lincoln man." He had hoped that Edward Bates would be the Republican nominee for President in 1860. However, the Illinois delegation, of which Browning was a member, was pledged to Lincoln, and Browning worked for Lincoln's nomination at the convention. Even after the nomination, Browning thought that "we have made a mistake in the selection of candidates." His assistance in getting Bates to support the Republican ticket proved vital, but Browning had little luck in recommending Cabinet appointments. He wanted to see Bates become Secretary of State and Joseph Holt, Secretary of War. Browning's was one of many voices raised against Norman B. Judd's inclusion in Lincoln's official family.

Browning exercised his greatest influence on the Lincoln

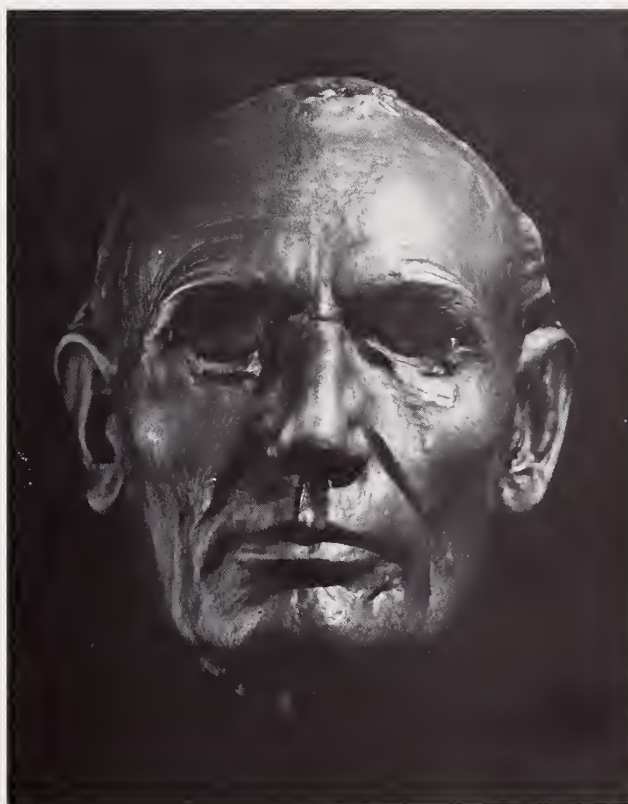
administration when he read a draft of the First Inaugural Address and suggested removing a provocative threat to "reclaim the public property and places which have fallen" in the seceded states. Browning's reasoning has often been taken as Lincoln's. He admitted that Lincoln's draft was right in principle without altering the threat to "reclaim" federal property, but, Browning explained,

In any conflict which may ensue between the government and the seceding States, it is very important that the traitors shall be the aggressors, and that they are kept constantly and palpably in the wrong.

The first attempt that is made to furnish supplies or reinforcements to Sumter will induce aggression by South Carolina, and then the government will stand justified, before the entire country, in repelling that aggression, and retaking the forts.

After Fort Sumter fell, Browning imputed his own reasoning to Lincoln. "Upon looking into the laws," he told the President on April 18, "which clothe you with power to act in this emergency, I am not sure that you expected, or desired any other result."

Browning was a conservative by nature, but war brought out a radical streak in him. If Baltimore stood in the way of troops coming to protect Washington, he told Lincoln, it should be "laid in ruin." Before April was over, he thought it likely that slaves would flock to the Union armies and inevitably "rise in rebellion." "The time is not yet," he added, "but it will come when it will be necessary for you to march an army into the South, and proclaim freedom to the slaves." Browning celebrated General John C. Frémont's proclamation freeing the slaves of rebels in Missouri in the late summer of 1861, and he thought the President wrong to revoke it. Frémont's proclamation did "not deal with citizens at all," Browning remonstrated, "but with public enemies." Citing precedents in international law, he insisted that war abolished society and



From the Louis A. Warren  
Lincoln Library and Museum

**FIGURE 1.** Browning recalled that sculptor Leonard W. Volk had worked in a marble yard in Quincy, Illinois, Browning's home. Lincoln's friend thought Volk's bust of Stephen A. Douglas "decidedly a work of genius." Volk is better known for his famous life mask of Lincoln. Dr. O. Gerald Trigg allowed the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum to photograph his superb bronze casting of the mask with the striking result above. For more information on the mask and on Volk's famous castings of Lincoln's hands, turn to the second article in this issue of *Lincoln Lore*.



gave "liberty to use violence *in infinitum*." "All their property," Browning said, "is subject to be . . . confiscated, and disposed of absolutely and forever by the belligerent power, without any reference whatever to the laws of society." Lincoln disagreed sharply.

After the death of Senator Stephen A. Douglas in June of 1861, Governor Richard Yates appointed Browning to finish his term. In the Senate, Browning defended the administration's arbitrary arrests and voted for the First Confiscation Act. He voted to emancipate slaves in the District of Columbia.

After April of 1862, Browning turned suddenly to the right. He opposed the Second Confiscation Act and urged Lincoln to veto it. It was a test "whether he [Lincoln] was to control the abolitionists and Radicals or whether they were to control him." He praised Lincoln's letter in answer to Horace Greeley's "Prayer of Twenty Millions" for emancipation, and he bitterly opposed the Emancipation Proclamation that fall. Browning was campaigning for Congressional candidates in Illinois when he heard it had been issued, and he practically stopped in his tracks. He slowed down his campaigning, and he twice pleaded with Lincoln to alter the Proclamation.

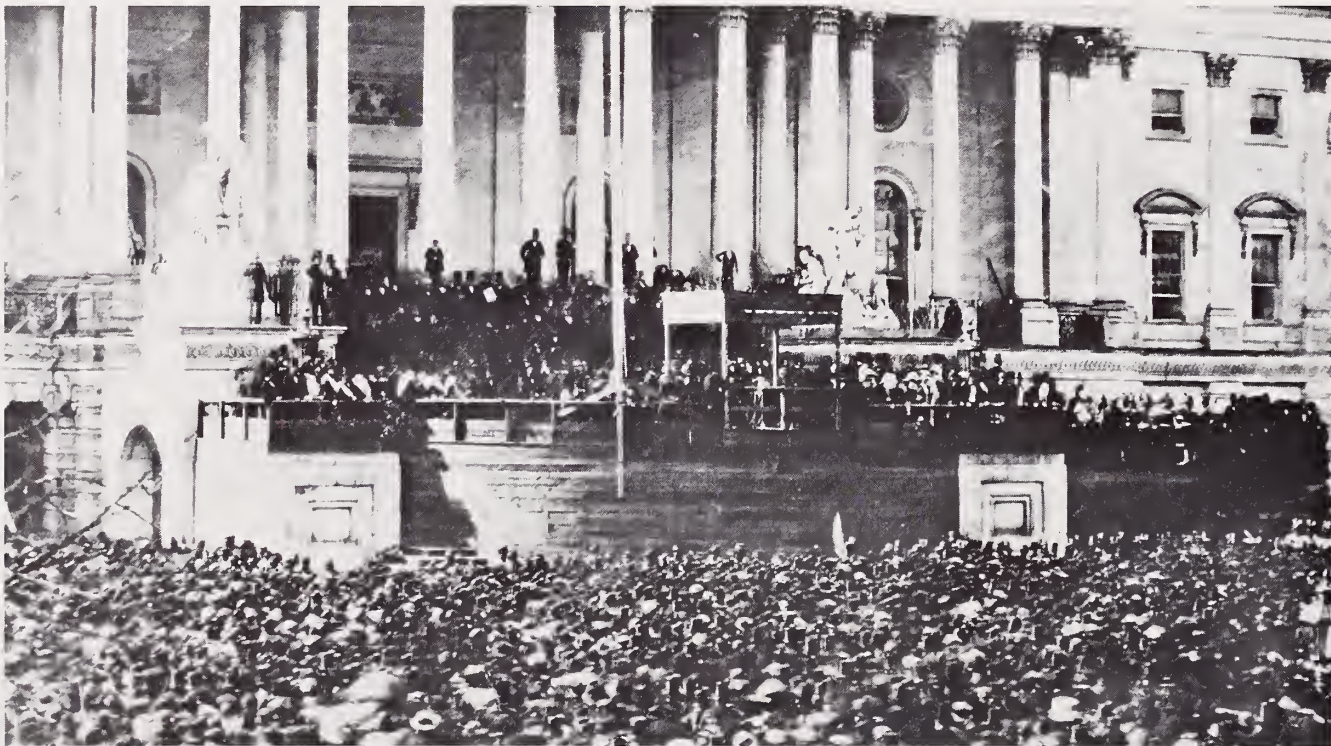
There is no explanation for the suddenness of Browning's change. In principle the Emancipation Proclamation was little different from Frémont's proclamation, and Browning had quarreled with Lincoln for revoking that. Lincoln's assault on slavery seemed to be legitimate by the very precedents in international law which Browning had called to Lincoln's attention: The Illinois Senator was disappointed that the President had not appointed him to the United States Supreme Court. He wanted the job so badly that he wrote Lincoln a somewhat embarrassed letter asking for it outright, admitting that it was "an office peculiarly adapted to my tastes." By the spring of 1862, Lincoln still had not filled the position, and many thought Browning was still in the running. Lincoln did not decide to appoint David Davis until July, and Browning had already turned to the right by that time.

Politically, Browning became increasingly disaffected from the administration. There was much doubt by 1864 that he would support Lincoln's reelection. Browning told a friend in September that he had "never . . . been able to persuade myself that he [Lincoln] was big enough for his position." No one knows how he voted in November. Browning's Civil War politics are an enigma to this day.



From the Louis A. Warren  
Lincoln Library and Museum

**FIGURE 2.** Orville Hickman Browning remained personally friendly to Lincoln even after their political disagreements. Gustave Koerner, a fellow Illinois Republican, always remembered Browning's "conspicuous . . . ruffled shirt and large cuffs." Their relations were pleasant enough, but Koerner would "have liked him better if he had been a little less conscious of his own superiority."



**FIGURE 3.** Lincoln's first inauguration.

From the Louis A. Warren  
Lincoln Library and Museum



## THE BERCHEM CONNECTION

When Dr. O. Gerald Trigg found the superb casting of Leonard Volk's life mask of Lincoln now in his possession (see *Lincoln Lore* Number 1701), he also discovered a crucial aspect of the history of Volk's famous mask, the role of Jules Berchem. Berchem was a Frenchman, born in Grenoble in 1855. Volk's junior by twenty-seven years, Berchem was indentured to learn bronze work six years after Volk made his original plaster mask of Lincoln. The young Frenchman came to America in 1882 and established his own foundry three years later. Volk's son sold the original mask in 1886, but, sometime after Berchem's arrival in this country, Volk lent the original mask to the French foundry-man. Dr. Trigg's mask was in all likelihood cast before 1886 and is, therefore, the oldest extant bronze copy.

It occurred to Dr. Trigg that Berchem probably also made bronze copies of Volk's castings of Lincoln's hands. By discovering the Berchem connection, he was able to conduct

an intelligent search for the hands that surely existed somewhere. Contacts with Berchem's descendants soon bore fruit, and Reverend Trigg now owns bronze castings of the hands as well. Like the mask, the right hand has an "M" on it, probably designating it as a master copy.

The massive bronze fists are important artifacts, peculiarly revealing of characteristics that do not show in Lincoln's face. The right hand is conspicuously different from the left because it is swollen and puffy from handshaking. These are the hands of a politician. These are the hands, too, of a healthy man. They show the results of a youth spent grappling with the wilderness: robust strength. They also give the lie to the sensational, but rather silly, theories that Lincoln suffered from Marfan's Syndrome. Doctors call this congenital disease "arachnodactyly," a name derived from the spidery fingers of the disease's victims. Many descriptions of these fists would be apt, but "spidery" is not among them.



*From the Louis A. Warren  
Lincoln Library and Museum*

**FIGURE 4.** The right hand of the Trigg bronze castings bears an inscription similar to the one on the bottom of the mask. It also bears an "M" at the base of Lincoln's thumb like the one in the ear of the mask. At Volk's request, Lincoln held a stick in his right hand, part of a broom handle which Lincoln himself cut for the casting. Volk made plaster casts of Lincoln's hands the day after the official committee came to Lincoln's home to notify him of his nomination for the Presidency. "The committee," Volk remembered, "and the vast crowd following passed in at the front door, and made their exit through the kitchen door in the rear, Mr. Lincoln giving them all a hearty shake of the hand as they passed him in the parlor."



FIGURE 5. The Trigg mask and hands.

*From the Louis A. Warren  
Lincoln Library and Museum*



Phone: 312 / 986-0449

# Americana Treasures Foundation



*Not For Profit Educational  
Organization Specializing In  
American Historical Reproductions*

16 NORTH LINCOLN STREET  
HINSDALE, ILLINOIS 60521

July 24, 1980

Director, Louis A. Warren  
Lincoln Library & Museum  
1300 South Clinton Street  
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801

Dear Sir:

The Americana Treasures Foundation is a not for profit educational organization interested in the dissemination of American historical reproductions associated with historic American people, places and events. In addition, our goals include providing thoroughly researched comprehensive histories of these items that are appropriate for use by schools, historical museums, and other educational institutions as well as for discriminating collectors of fine Americana.

We have reason to believe that you would appreciate a donation without any charge or obligation of our replica life mask, hand casts and wall bust of Abraham Lincoln. These are now found in every major place of importance to Abraham Lincoln.

Our account which accompanies these replicas is thoroughly researched and the only accurate one available. Even Mr. Volk in his own narrative had his dates inaccurate.

Since our organization is strictly a labor of love with minimal resources, we would naturally appreciate your letting any one know who would be interested in such masterpieces and where they can be obtained so that we can continue our dedication. We would appreciate an acknowledgement.

Thanking you in the spirit of our great America and especially in the spirit of Abraham Lincoln, we remain

Your Obt. Servt.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph G. Nemecek, Jr.".

Joseph G. Nemecek, Jr.  
President

JGN/jjn



Phone: 312 / 986-0449



# Americana Treasures Foundation

*Not For Profit Educational  
Organization Specializing In  
American Historical Reproductions*

16 NORTH LINCOLN STREET  
HINSDALE, ILLINOIS 60521

The Abraham Lincoln Life Mask, Hand Casts and Wall Bust  
are found in the following locations.

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site;  
Hodgenville, Kentucky

Knob Creek Farm; Hodgenville, Kentucky

Lincoln Boyhood Home National Memorial; Lincoln City, Indiana

Lincoln's New Salem; Petersburg, Illinois

Long Nine Museum; Athens, Illinois

Lincoln's Law Office (A. Lincoln Book Shop); Springfield, Ill.

Lincoln Home National Historic Site; Springfield, Illinois

Mary Todd Lincoln House; Lexington, Kentucky

Lincoln College; Lincoln, Illinois

Cooper Union; New York, New York

The White House House; Washington, D.C.

U.S. Government Visitor Center; Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

Lincoln Museum (Ford's Theatre); Washington, D.C.

State Capitol; Frankfort, Kentucky

State Capitol; Indianapolis, Indiana

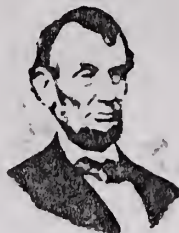
State Capitol; Springfield, Illinois

Abraham Lincoln Library & Museum; Lincoln Memorial University,  
Harrogate, Tennessee

Robert Todd Lincoln Mansion; Manchester, Vermont







MI b.

THE LOUIS A. WARREN  
LINCOLN LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

1300 SOUTH CLINTON STREET / FORT WAYNE, INDIANA 46801

MARK E. NEELY, JR.  
Director

August 25, 1980

Telephone (219) 424-5421

Mr. Joseph G. Nemecek, Jr., President  
Americana Treasures Foundation  
16 North Lincoln Street  
Hinsdale, Illinois 60521

Dear Mr. Nemecek:

Thank you for the gift of the Volk mask, hands, and bust replicas. We are frequently asked about the availability of such Lincoln items, and we will be sure to refer people to the Americana Treasures Foundation.

Sincerely yours,

*Mark E Neely Jr*  
Mark E. Neely, Jr.

MEN/vpg



# A LIFE MASK IS MADE

IN THE spring of 1860 while Lincoln was appearing in Chicago for William Jones and Sylvester Marsh in the famous sandbar litigation trial—involving valuable lake-front property created by accretion on the shores of Lake Michigan—the sculptor Leonard Wells Volk asked him to sit for a portrait bust.

“Mr. Volk, I have never sat before to sculptor or painter—only for daguerreotypes and photographs. What shall I do?”

Volk told him that he would take measurements of his head and shoulders, then a cast would be made of his face to save him a number of sittings.

At the studio while preparing for the casting, Volk put Lincoln at ease with the story of his Italian *formatore*, who once confided to him how he and a comrade of his were “doing”

Switzerland by hawking little images.

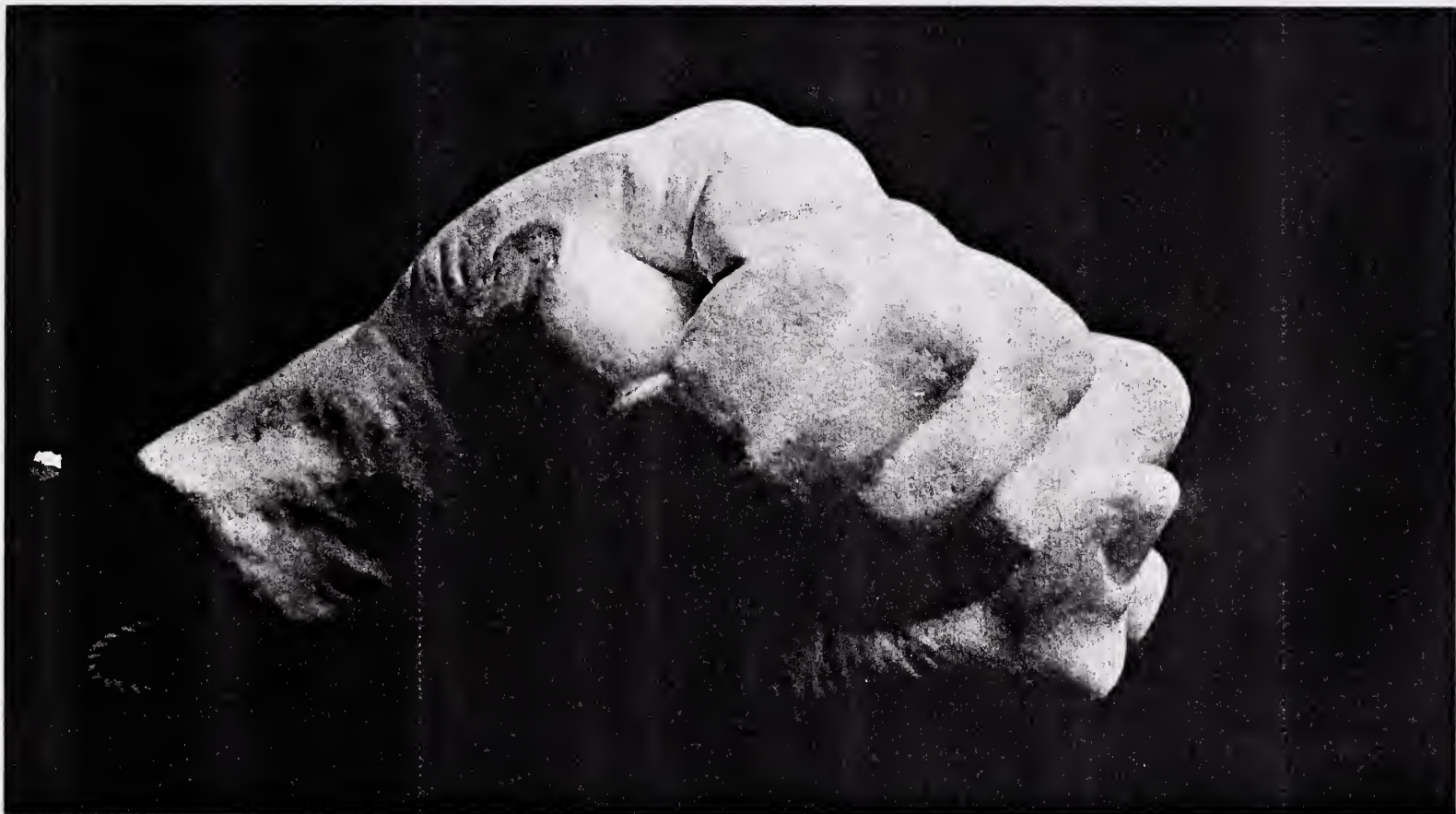
“One day, a Swiss gentleman asked him if he could make his likeness in plaster. ‘Oh, yes, Signor; I am a sculptor!’ said Matteo Mattei, who got some plaster, laid the big Swiss gentleman on his back, stuck a quill in each nostril for him to breathe through, and requested him to close his eyes. After pouring the soft plaster all over the man’s face and forehead, he paused for reflection; as the plaster was beginning to set he became frightened, as he had never before undertaken such a job and had neglected to prepare the face properly, especially the gentleman’s huge beard, mustache, and the hair about the temples and forehead, through which, of course, the plaster had run and become solid. Making an excuse to go outside the door, he told Volk, ‘I run like . . .’ ”

“How did he get it off?” Lincoln wanted to know.

The sculptor answered that the Swiss gentleman probably had to break it off, and cut and pull out all the hair which the plaster touched.

Lincoln laughed heartily and held still as Volk put the plaster on his face.

“It was about an hour before the mold was ready to be removed,” recalled Volk, “and being all in one piece, with both ears perfectly taken, it clung pretty hard, as the cheek-bones were higher than the jaws at the lobe of the ear. He bent his head low and took hold of the mold, and gradually worked it off without injury; it hurt a little, as a few hairs of the tender temples pulled out with the plaster and made his eyes water; but the remembrance of the poor Swiss gentleman evidently kept him in good mood.”



**CAST OF HIS HAND**, made by Leonard Wells Volk a day after Lincoln received formal notice of his nomination. The sculptor wanted him to hold something in his fist, so Lincoln went out

in the woodshed and sawed off a piece of broom handle. As he was polishing the edges, Volk remarked that he need not whittle it off. “Oh well,” said Lincoln, “I thought I would like to have it nice.”







**LIFE MASK**, made by Volk in the spring of 1860, when Lincoln tried one of his famous law cases—*Johnston v. Jones and Marsh*—in Chicago. Between court sessions he went to the sculptor's studio,

where Volk made a cast of his face. It was a cumbersome procedure; the mold was all in one piece and clung hard. When Lincoln first saw the cast, he burst out: "There is the animal himself."



letter to Norton the wit and sarcasm that marked the conclusion of his report to Washburne.

Lincoln closes his letter to Norton with: "Now as I have called names so freely, you will of course consider this confidential—" In fact, however, he had given Norton the "official" version of his defeat for the Senate, a story that could safely be shared with anti-slavery men of any party. Lincoln closed none of his options.

For most of the next year, Lincoln debated his course. In the end, he not only joined the Republican Party but even received over 100 votes as a Vice Presidential candidate at the 1856 convention and ran as the Republican Senatorial candidate two years later. His successful transition from Whig to Republican was possible because of his political realism, no better displayed than in this letter to Norton. Here he maintains his reputation for honesty and fair-dealing, even at the cost of appearing politically naive. He plays down aspersions on the merits of an anti-slavery Democrat like Trumbull, thus making it possible for them to work together effectively under the Republican banner in the future.

Many historians have pointed out that Lincoln's defeat for the Senate in 1855 was a piece of good fortune, for it made him challenge Douglas for his Senate seat three years later, thus giving him a chance to win nationwide attention in their debates. As the contrasts in his letters to Washburne and Norton make clear, however, Lincoln did not rely on good luck for his political future. His own ambitions and his new political purpose were too important to leave to chance

\$25,000-50,000

□ 73

LINCOLN, ABRAHAM, as *Sixteenth President*. Printed Document signed, accomplished in another hand, 1 page folio oblong, Washington, 2 March 1864, being the appointment of Stephen Longfellow as customs collector for the district of Machias, Maine, countersigned by Treasury Secretary Salmon P. Chase; some light browning; matted and framed. The new chief of the Machias custom house was the elder brother of the famous poet

\$2,500-3,000

□ 74

LINCOLN, ABRAHAM, as *Sixteenth President*. Printed Document signed, accomplished in another hand, 1 page folio, Washington, 1 July 1864, being Anderson D. Nelson's commission as a major in the 1st Regiment of Infantry; light marginal soiling, four tiny holes at one horizontal fold (affecting two characters of text). An 1837 graduate of West Point, Nelson (d. 1885) was a captain in the U.S. Army at the outbreak of the Civil War. Under the commission signed by Lincoln in July 1864, Nelson's rank as

major was to date from 13 March 1863. From February through August 1865, he held the rank of lieutenant colonel assigned as an assistant inspector general. His brevet rank of lieutenant colonel and as colonel dated from 13 March 1865 for both "faithful and effective service" and "faithful and meritorious service" during the war. He retired from the Army in 1879 and died half a dozen years later

\$1,800-2,200

□ 74A

[LINCOLN, ABRAHAM.] VOLK, LEONARD WELLS (1828-1895) and SAINT GAUDENS, AUGUSTUS (1848-1907). A set of the bronze copies cast by Saint-Gaudens in 1886 from the original plaster mask of Lincoln's face and cast of his hands made by Volk in Chicago and Springfield, April and May 1860; dark brown patina, slightly worn at knuckles and heels of hands; the base of the life mask bearing this inscription: "THIS CAST WAS MADE FOR WILLIAM CAREY. A SUBSCRIBER TO THE FUND FOR THE PURCHASE AND PRESENTATION TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OF THE ORIGINAL MASK MADE IN CHICAGO APRIL 1860 BY LEONARD W. VOLK FROM THE LIVING FACE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN. THIS CAST WAS TAKEN FROM THE FIRST REPLICA IN NEW YORK CITY FEBRUARY 1886"; the cast of both right and left hands bearing the inscription: "THIS CAST OF THE HAND OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN WAS MADE FROM THE FIRST REPLICA OF THE ORIGINAL MADE AT SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS, THE SUNDAY FOLLOWING HIS NOMINATION TO THE PRESIDENCY IN 1860. / COPYRIGHT LEONARD VOLK 1886"

VOLK'S LINCOLN. Sculptor Leonard Wells Volk learned his craft in New York and settled in Illinois after marrying a cousin of Stephen A. Douglas, who gave Volk the funds that allowed him to study in Rome in the mid-1850s. On his return, Volk set up a studio in Chicago, where he first met Lincoln in 1858 during Lincoln's historic debates with Douglas. At that time, Lincoln promised to sit one day for Volk, but it was almost two years more before they met again. In April 1860, Volk noticed a newspaper article announcing Lincoln's arrival in town to argue a case. Volk went to the courthouse and reminded Lincoln of his old promise. Lincoln readily agreed to begin sitting, and paid a visit to Volk's studio each morning for a week. If he could take a mask of Lincoln's face, Volk explained, the number of sittings could be greatly reduced. Lincoln agreed, and Volk described the session at which the mask was taken: "... He sat naturally in the chair when I made the cast, and saw every move I made in a mirror opposite, as I put the plaster on without interference with

*continued*







74A

his eyesight or his free breathing through the nostrils. It was about an hour before the mold was ready to be removed, and being all in one piece, with both ears perfectly taken, it clung pretty hard, as the cheek-bones were higher than the jaws at the lobe of the ear. He [Lincoln] bent his head low and took hold of the mold, and gradually worked it off without breaking or injury; it hurt a little, as a few hairs of

the tender temples pulled out with the plaster and made his eyes water . . ." The sitting continued for five days after the mask was prepared, Lincoln entertaining Volk with "some of the funniest and most laughable of stories."

In mid-May, Volk was on the train to Springfield when he heard the news of Lincoln's nomination by the Republicans. He got off the train in Lincoln's home town and rushed to Lincoln's house, announcing to the astonished candidate: "I am the first man



from Chicago, I believe, who has the honor of congratulating you on your nomination for President." Volk insisted that he now must execute a full-length statue of Lincoln, and Lincoln agreed to provide Volk with appropriate photographs of himself, while Volk would take his measurements as well as make casts of his hands. Volk appeared at Lincoln's home on the next Sunday morning and set to work in the diningroom. When the sculptor suggested that Lincoln should be holding something in his right hand for the cast, the candidate disappeared to the woodshed and returned, "whittling off the end of a piece of broom-handle."

When Volk said that this was unnecessary, Lincoln remarked cheerfully: "I thought I would like to have it nice." As Volk made the casts of Lincoln's hands, he noticed that the right was still severely swollen from the handshaking of Lincoln's latest campaign—a difference that is visible in the casts. Volk commented on a scar on Lincoln's left thumb, and Lincoln explained that it was a souvenir of his days as a rail-splitting: "... one day, while I was sharpening a wedge on a log, the ax glanced and nearly took my thumb off ...". The casts made, Volk set off for Chicago with the mold, photographs, a black suit left over from Lincoln's 1858 campaign, and a pair of Lincoln's pegged boots. Volk and Lincoln met for the last time in January 1861. (Leonard W. Volk, "The Lincoln Life-Mask and How it was made," *Century Magazine*, December 1881 [vol. 23:223-228])

In May 1860, Volk applied for a patent on his bust of Lincoln based on the life mask made at the end of March, but it is unclear whether Volk made any commercial uses of the mask and casts of the hands in the next quarter century. However, it is known that Volk later gave the casts of Lincoln's face and hands to his son, Douglas, himself an artist, and Douglas Volk passed them on to a fellow art student, Wyatt Eaton. In the winter of 1885-1886, Richard Watson Gilder saw the casts in Eaton's studio and immediately grasped their significance. Along with his friend Augustus Saint-Gaudens, he organized the fund-raising drive that allowed the casts to be purchased for the National Museum (Smithsonian Institution). Thirty-three men contributed to this drive at a cost of \$50. For this sum, the subscriber received a plaster set of the life mask and hands. For an additional \$25, subscribers were given a bronze reproduction of the mask with the hand in plaster. And, for a total of \$85, a subscriber was entitled to an entire set of three pieces in bronze. Saint-Gaudens supervised casting the bronze copies, and each set of the bronze life masks bears the legend inscribed on the one offered here, with the name of the individual subscriber inserted in its appropriate place.

Together 3 pieces

\$7,000-8,000

□ 75

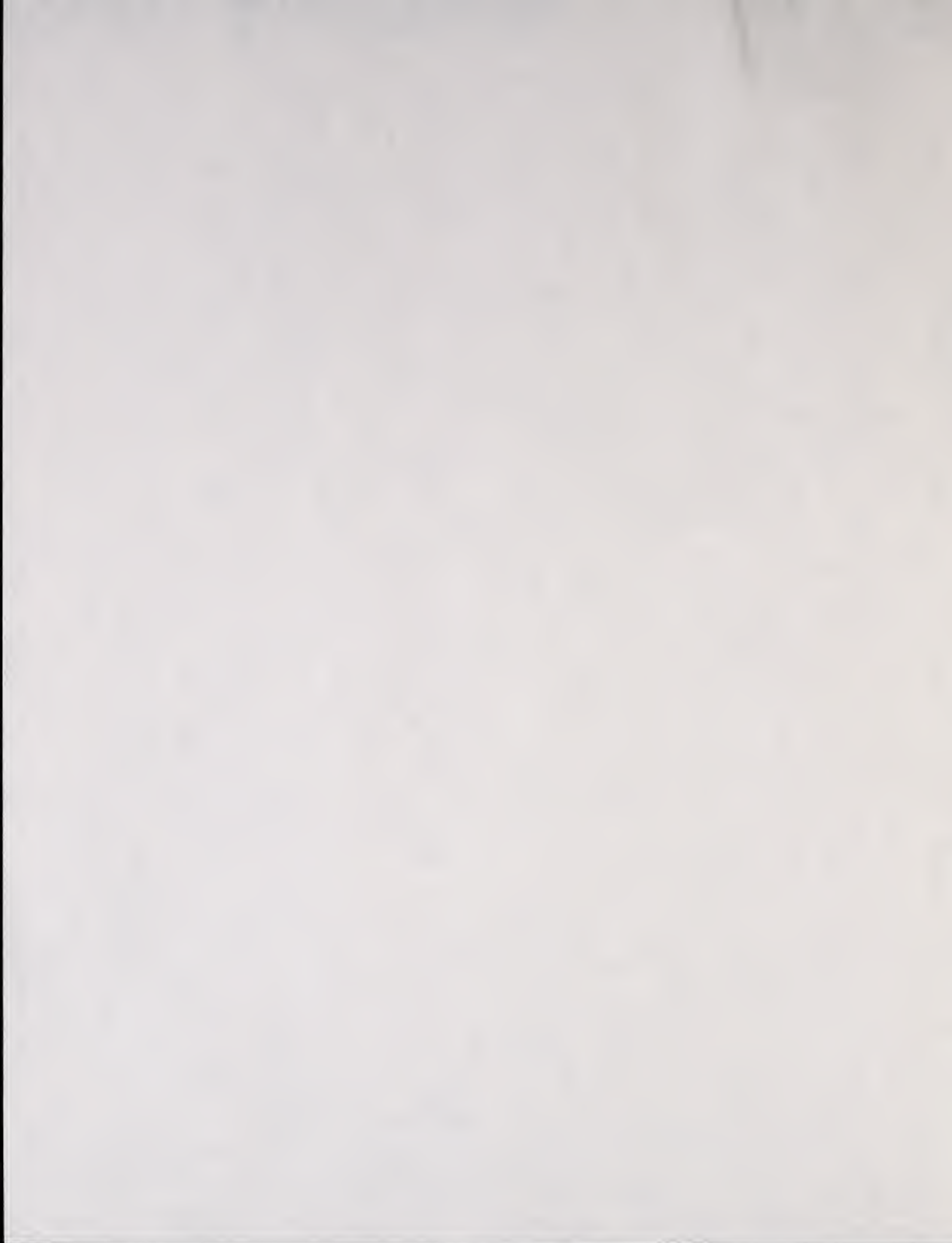
MADISON, DOLLY, *First Lady*. Autograph Letter signed ("D P Madison"), 1 page 4to. Montpelier, 22 February 1841, to Secretary of the Navy J.K. Paulding in Washington; integral address leaf with seal remnant and repaired seal tear, postmark and tape stain from newspaper clipping attached to the verso of the leaf, small holes at intersections of folds on address leaf

"AFFECTIONATE FRIENDS." After her husband's death in 1836, Mrs. Madison made Washington, D.C., her home for most of the year. Here she writes anxiously to one of her friends in the capital: "It was with deep sorrow . . . that I heard of Mrs. Paulding's illness . . . I cannot express the feelings of fulness of my regard for you both, and my wishes for your happiness and useful lives—I have been cheered however of late by assurances from Washington of her recovery . . ." The former First Lady explains that much of her own time has been spent in caring for an ailing relative of her own: "the last seven months . . . I have devoted to my sister Todd, who is still on a visit to me, and who has been the subject of many afflictions during the interval of ten years since we met . . ."

She then thanks Paulding for "offering to forward the publication of those *precious papers* [the three-volume 1840 edition of her husband's papers edited by Attorney General Henry Gilpin], which I once placed in your hands, when you, as well as I expected soon to see them out, followed by others . . ." And she promises to avail herself of that offer as soon as she can travel, "which I hope will be soon, tho' so various are the *spells* which confine me to Montpelier, that my emancipation may be distant, as they differ from that 'attenuated web,' which binds the *careless* world together . . ."

She closes by sending good wishes to Paulding and his ailing wife from herself and her niece Anna Payne, "as her affectionate friends who listen anxiously for tidings of her restored health, and accept for yourself our constant and kindest respect"

\$700-900





VOLK, Leonard - Face and Hands

DRAWING 23

Sculptors - V  
(casts)

